

We see ourselves an equal partner in the Empire, bearing its burdens and sharing in its glories, because to us there has come a great access of national strength that will some day be sufficient for Empire tasks of greatest magnitude.

In the shaping of this national life which we believe to be so necessary to our development it should not be considered disloyal to the Empire or to our future place in it, if we seek to build up in the Dominion whatever forces or influences or even attributes of national power which give us distinction and dignity as well as an effective sense of unity. Whatever makes for the centralization of authority within our borders and for the unifying of national thought, we should not be deficient in these new and momentous days of nation building upon which we have entered. It is not certain that the national life of our country would not be sensibly richer if years ago whatever means were open to us had been used for drawing our people together into a sense of their common life. To-day we cannot afford to allow those means to be disregarded. If the new populations pouring into Western Canada are to adopt the Canadian point of view not only upon the ordinary questions of citizenship but upon the wider subject of Canadian destiny as a nation within the circle of the Empire, our Canadianism should be permitted to appeal to their sympathies in the strongest possible light. There is no way in which it can be so impressively done as through our great institutions if they are national in their character and the ideals they shadow forth.

Canada in connection with the settlement of its North-West is confronted with a task of statesmanship of greater seriousness than is commonly suspected. The conditions are wholly unlike those which existed in the United States when it had to deal with the problem of assimilating the alien peoples that came to it. Immigration to the United States did not commence to take place to any appreciable extent till the year 1830. The native population then amounted to 13,000,000, a number large enough and sufficiently influential to secure the permanent of American ideals. Western Canada is too large and too sparsely