

cil, organized under the Imperial and various Colonial Parliaments, and such other Colonies as might come into the Federation at first or at a subsequent period. The Acts of this Council might be effective through the Imperial and Colonial Governments interested. Under any circumstances, this matter would require very careful thought.

All of the matters relating to those duties, responsibilities and obligations which we as a country should consider, and to which I have referred, are questions which agitate other nations; they are live questions with our friends in the great Republic to the south. We cannot expect immunity from those responsibilities which other countries have to face, and we should be willing to show to Great Britain and our sister colonies that we are willing to consider this national problem with a view of working it out. It does not appear to me that it is the place of Great Britain to make the first advance; the movement naturally must be voluntary on the part of the Colonies; if approached in any other spirit there would be little chance of improving the situation. We are either part of the Empire or we are not; if we are, and wish to remain part, then having reached the age of maturity, we should not lean on the parent's strong arm, as though we were still weak and defenceless, but should rather signify our willingness to assume our rightful position. Let it not be supposed that upon the shoulders of those who have remained in those small islands of Great Britain, that they alone shall be held responsible for the protection and preservation of this great Empire, scattered as it is all over the world, but rather let the millions of her loyal offspring, through some new plan, join in the task of placing the Empire on so strong a footing that in the future those mutterings of other nations, the wish being father to the thought, that some great calamity may befall her from which she cannot recover, that this kind of thing will sit lightly upon her shoulders, always feeling that her cause being a just one, she can triumph over any foe.

I cannot think that the millennium is in sight, and it is still a fact that the nation that is best able to defend itself, will continue to be the most respected. I hope to see the day when the different parts of the Empire will have a bond between them, which will be as strong as the bond which binds the different States of the United States together for each others' mutual benefit and support: that the Empire may become a commercial Empire; that a market may be established which no nation can take away; the world can be as wide open for British trade as it is now. In the outside market, the struggle may go on for control, but in the inner, the British producer will have the preference by a British consumer, and neither foreign bounties or slaughter prices nor other exigencies of trade can destroy British supremacy.

#### **Membership of the Board.**

In the Membership of the Board of Trade are to be found one or more representatives from nearly every important mercantile, financial and manufacturing enterprise in the city and many throughout the Province. The work of the Board in future, as in the past, will be in concentrating the thought of the people on any improvement, to assist in forming public opinion, to give its services for various public purposes and accomplish by united effort what individuals cannot do singly. It naturally gives its greatest attention to our city's interests, while at times it enters into friendly co-operation with other places along lines for the benefit of national commerce.

The gentlemen whom you have nominated for the Council, without exception, are those who command the esteem and confidence of the public in general; out of such a body of men, it makes but little difference who the fifteen may be which are selected. Membership on the Council demands the unstinted sacrifice of time and application to the various important questions which are constantly before it. My experience teaches me that