

communication; and later, in 1878-9, by his tariff policy, which he and his colleagues insisted upon describing as a National policy, Sir John developed in the minds of the Canadian people a consciousness of their common economic existence, a consciousness which has since become the stable basis of Canada's industrial and commercial progress. He advocated and undertook the construction of National works, and he frequently referred to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway as Canada's greatest National achievement. His aspirations for the development of a vigorous Canadian Nationality, in which the two great races which first settled the Provinces, would have equal rights, responsibilities and privileges,—his fervid Canadian patriotism, at length, permeated the very minds and hearts of the Canadian people.

That National trade and tariff policy, Sir Wilfrid Laurier subsequently, in a large measure, adopted and maintained. He, too, undertook the construction of another National Transcontinental Railway; and he even surpassed, in one respect, all his predecessors, by assuming control of the Imperial fortifications on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts of Canada, and by accepting, on behalf of the Government of Canada, complete responsibility for its military defence.

The direct intervention of successive Canadian Governments, in the negotiation of commercial treaties affecting Canada, has also vitalized the National idea; while both the successes and failures of Canadian representatives in conserving Canadian interests in negotiations with foreign powers, and in asserting her territorial rights before various tribunals of arbitration, have alike served to create a sense of National individuality and National responsibility.

The development of the National ideal has also created a jealous determination in the minds of the people to conserve and maintain the rights of responsible self-government—the political autonomy, which they have hitherto obtained by persistent resistance to the extreme pretensions of Colonial Governors and of the Colonial Office at Downing Street.

The Canadian Nationalism of the past has imbibed the spirit of "What we have we hold;" and that spirit has been strengthened by the belief that the development of Canada's industrial and commercial interests must ever depend upon the fostering care of her own Government, and upon the intelligently directed energy of her own people.