

apparent, that our present situation, while it involves our participation in foreign wars, affords us no security against United States aggression.

Now, do not take me as advocating independence in this address. I am doing nothing, at the moment, but pointing out to you the road that we are on, and suggesting what its termination will be if we do not turn from it. I am not going, either, to pretend that independence under the British Crown is a position free from objection. There are indeed examples, but not of the most encouraging character, of two countries with no other organic union than a common King—such as England and Scotland under the Stuarts, and Great Britain and Hanover under the Georges. The first of these ended in political union, and the second in complete separation. How long the United Kingdom and Canada would continue to acknowledge the same Sovereign, no one can venture to say. Some untoward incident might speedily terminate the situation; but if the Canadian schemes of Imperial co-operation are allowed free play, a vast increase in sympathy and interest might prolong it indefinitely.

I have no time to dwell upon these schemes, or to trace the difficulties which Canada has encountered in getting them into operation. I can do little else than mention them:

First there is the Canadian system of imperial preferences. Canada has converted the Empire with the sole exception of the United Kingdom to that great idea, and by converting Mr. Chamberlain has so impressed the sole dissentient that, a strong political party is now advocating colonial preferences. Imperial co-operation in trade.

Secondly, there is the Canadian idea of imperial cables—direct and cheap communication with all parts of the Empire, with landings upon territory of the Empire only. Thanks to Sir Sandford Fleming's persistence, we have already a large instalment of such cables owned and managed by various parts of the Empire. Imperial co-operation in telegraphy.

Thirdly, there is the Canadian idea of cheap imperial postage. Thanks very largely to Sir William Mulock, an ounce letter may now go to any part of the Empire for two cents; and the rate of postage upon British periodicals has been reduced from last year's rate of 8d. a pound to this year's rate of a penny a pound. What that means may be imagined, but not I think fully appreciated, when we know that its immediate effect was to increase the number of bags of British mail by Canadian steamers (the only ones affected) in May and June of this year by 146 per cent. over the corresponding months of the previous year. Imperial co-operation in cheap postage.

And fourthly, there is the Canadian idea of an all-red route of transportation, which is meeting with the usual opposition but which we shall have. Imperial co-operation in transportation.