

supply millions of people with wheat. New towns are springing up every day, and broadening out, as if by magic, into large and populous cities. In the very near future three transcontinental railways will stretch across the country from the Maritime Provinces to British Columbia. Manufactures, inventions, literature—in all these Canada is rapidly becoming able to compete with other nations, and if this progress continues, as we emphatically assert it will, then the day will soon come when Canada will rank among the great powers of the world.

“Some may be inclined to smile at the idea of Miss Canada ever holding an equal position with John Bull, Uncle Sam and the rest of the big men who rule the gigantic trust of nations today. To these we will answer that Miss Canada is not afraid of their derision, for she firmly believes, with all the buoyant hope of a suffragette, that the day is not far distant when the equal rights of women will be recognized throughout the world.

“It may seem strange to many other peoples that a country the size of Canada should be contented to play the role of a colony instead of becoming independent. They do not realize that for all practical purposes Canada is independent. She makes her own laws without any interference whatever on the part of the Mother Country. She is allowed to work out her destiny in her own way, and this freedom, instead of exciting a desire for absolute independence, is the very link which binds us so closely with England. We Canadians adhere to the ancient adage that in union there is strength, and just as the confederation of the provinces made a greater Canada, so will the union of the colonies with the Motherland make a stronger and grander empire.

“The practical wisdom of constitutional government in Canada under British sovereignty would naturally lead one to believe that the spirit of contented happiness prevailing in this country is revealed in all other parts of the Empire as well. But what a contrast is found in Ireland! In that unhappy country we see thousands each year sailing away to America or Australia—exiles driven from their native sod through injustice and oppression. The Emerald Isle is the one stain upon the government of the British Empire. And why should this be? Why give self-government to Canada, Australia and South Africa and not to Ireland? Canadians realize that this is a gross injustice, and it is the hope of every true-hearted Irishman in Canada today that the noble efforts of the Irish patriots will soon be rewarded by Home Rule. ‘Then, and not till then, will the Empire be one!’”