

nations of the earth; just as a son, on reaching years of maturity, with love and affection for his parents and the fondest recollection of the old homestead, sets out to make his own way in the world, entirely independent of the care that guided his course and assisted and directed him in the early days of his life. Whatever feelings, if any, existed in Canada prior to the war in favor of the courses mentioned, have been completely obliterated forever by the spirit created in the present struggle, and now no thoughtful man or woman would for a moment give support to either proposition, and I think the people of Canada would unhesitatingly agree with the statement contained in Article 1 of the Memorandum prepared by The Round Table Council of Canada, which states:

“Canada has shown her determination to preserve and strengthen the ties which now bind her to Great Britain and other portions of the British Commonwealth.”

I think we may take it for granted that the second article of this Memorandum, which states:

“That effective organization of the Empire must not involve any sacrifice of responsible government in domestic affairs or the surrender of control over fiscal policy by any portion of the Empire,”

will at all events meet with the approval of and be insisted upon by the people of Canada, and, I have no doubt, by other portions of the Empire as well. It is only when we come to Article 3, which states:

“That it is an inevitable development of responsible government in the Dominions that they should assume their proportionate share in the defence of the Empire, and should have a voice in determining its relations with other States.”

that there seems any room for dispute or discussion. Should we assume our proportionate share in the defence of the Empire as an obligation, or leave each section of the Empire free to act in such defence as its ability, loyalty and self-respect may dictate, as in the past? Do we want a voice in determining the relationship of the Empire to other States with all the responsibilities and consequences that such a privilege would entail?

“Should these two questions be answered in the affirmative, there of course remain the further important and difficult questions, on what basis is the obligation to be undertaken,