

the Portuguese, the Dutch, the French, the British, all founded colonies across the waters of the Atlantic. Of all empires the British alone survives, and the survival is due to the second event of which I shall now make mention. Sufficient for the moment to remember that historically Canada will remain the first outpost of empire as comprised today, the foundation of the great structure which has come into being with succeeding years.

### A Legislature.

"The other event consisted of the gathering of a few persons representing the new settlers of Nova Scotia. It occurred on the 2nd of October, 1758. It was the initial meeting of persons elected to form a legislature. From that day to this, a period of over one hundred and fifty years that legislature has sat continuously year by year. It is the oldest legislature existing in the self-governing Dominions today of the oldest of thirty-three now existing in the British Dominions. In the calling together of that assembly we have the constitutional birth of the empire. It marks the beginning of the policy of self-government, which has been continuously developed, and which is the very life and strength of the empire as it exists today. Other empires have passed away; they were based on absolutism, on centralized control. The survival of the British Empire is due to its political organization being entirely different to the granting of representative institutions to each part, instead of an attempt to control from an all powerful centre. That was in 1758, that carries us back to a time in history which preceded the existence of the United States by eighteen years, to a period when the provinces of Quebec and Ontario were subject to the military rule of the king of France, to a time when no Englishman had yet seen any portion of Australia and New Zealand, when no British possessions existed in South Africa, and a century before British Columbia became a British colony.

### Beginning of Empire.

"Historically, then, Canada marks the beginning of the British Empire, its beginning from the point of view of territorial expanse, its beginning from the point of view of constitutional growth. But Canada has meant more than this to the British Government. Representative government would not alone have sufficed had it not been followed by responsible government, and, sir, it was in Canada that at the cost of human life, that at the sacrifice to many of home and fortune, was witnessed the last death grapple between the old order of things which feared to trust, and the new order which knew no fear. It is not necessary to recall the dark days of 1837-38, to be reminded of insurrection to revive memories that awaken pain even at this hour. It is sufficient if we recognize in that struggle, begun in the year that the young Queen Victoria ascended the throne, not a desire to limit the dominions of that throne, but a desire to see it established in righteousness, with wise and able counsellors around it. The rebellion of 1837 has long since passed into history. We at this day, proud of our citizenship in the British Empire, can recognize in the conflict that took place then, the settlement forever of the principles of self-government within the component parts of the British Empire, which we know to be at the foundation of the very essence of the liberties which as citizens of the British empire we enjoy today. That struggle has given us liberties, not to Canada alone, but to Australia and New Zealand, and last of all to South Africa. The failure to recognize a like requirement of liberty lost the United States to the British crown.

### Experiment of Government.

"But not only was Canada the first of the outlying Dominions to have representative government, and the first to have responsible government; she was the first to try and to succeed in that experiment of government which has given its present political constitution to the other component parts of