adopted or re-enacted by Canadian Parliaments. Most even of our Provincial statutes of importance are copied almost verbatim from Imperial acts. So far then as Imperial legislation and English law are applicable in any way to Canadian conditions Canada, in all her legislation, and in all the decisions of her courts, has been guided carefully by Great Britain, guided sometimes by constitutional necessity, sometimes by constitutional freedom, but always by a strong, if unexpressed, under-current of desire for that unity of law which in the long run is always the surest foundation for all political unity.

In the last paragraph we have mentioned some acts of the Imperial Parliament which expressly extend to the Colonies. Of these acts there is, as everyone knows, one act, The British North America Act, which is of supreme importance to Canada. This act is Canada's Charter or Letters Patents, received by *grant* from the Parliament of Great Britain. The act, however, is based solely upon the Colonial principle and operates clearly, therefore, as a legal admission by Canada of the colonial relationship. Any Canadian legislation inconsistent with the colonial relationship would be at once pronounced *ultra vires* and void alike by all British and Canadian courts. The terms of the act itself, moreover, are strictly binding upon Canada. The only method by which the act can be amended in the smallest particular is by a further act of the British Parliament. Under what circumstances the British Parliament would pass such amending act has never been as yet even remotely determined. Certainly, it would not be passed, for example, on a memorial supported by a bare majority vote in the Canadian House of Commons, nor even if supported by a unanimous vote of that House, if opposed by all the Provincial Legislatures. In any case the final and sovereign decision would rest with the mother parliament, and that decision would no doubt be freely acquiesced in by all Canadians as being not only the most patriotic, but also the most expedient, and the only legal method of settling the controversy. It still rests with the Imperial Parliament, therefore, to determine whether the Canadian constitution is to belong to the "rigid" or to the "flexible" type.

But if Canada cannot amend her own constitution, the Imperial Parliament can amend it at will, and solely of her own initiative, if she wishes. The Imperial Parliament is still sovereign over every acre of colonial soil. She has in no way divested herself of the slightest morsel of her ultimate sovereign power by granting the colonies their rights of self-government at home. The Imperial Parliament can pass legislation at any time affecting the minutest private or local interest on any part of colonial territory. She may pass legislation, for example, regulating the use of fire-escapes in the City of Saskatoon, confiscating a corner lot in the City of Winnipeg, or annulling the *ne temere* decree in the Province of Quebec. All this the Imperial Parliament can do, notwithstanding The British North America Act, if she wishes.

I have no desire to urge unduly, however, the argument in the last paragraph. The real question is not what the Imperial Parliament may do if she wishes, but what, in view of her past history, she is likely to do. Mr. Ewart, however, does not hesitate to use the argument to its full limit in urging what Canada may do. Indeed, the crux of his argument seems to be that Canada may do precisely as she wishes. This argument, however, is hopelessly wide of the mark. No one really disputes the statement that Canada may do as she wishes. She may declare her independence to-morrow if she