

which we are trying to claim is fast becoming a nation, must in this, as in other things, assume the white man's burden.

Any nation that seeks to retain its foreign trade must be willing to assume the responsibility of protecting its trade routes as well as its coast line and its fisheries. I do not for one moment under-rate the great importance of the time in our history at which we have arrived. It would seem, as has been claimed, that we have reached the parting of the ways. We have been depending on Great Britain, the taxpayer of Great Britain has been assuming all the responsibility for the defence of the empire, and now we come to the crisis, the parting of the ways. As has been said, there are certain courses which we may take. I believe we have come to the finger post, and to me the finger points absolutely without doubt what course we should take. I do not say that to every citizen of Canada that finger points so absolutely. We may, Mr. Speaker, remain one of co-partnership, of a free self-governing state, acting together for a common purpose and mutual defence. We may cut ourselves adrift, become a separate nation, have our own policy. We may sink our individuality and become incorporated in the great country to the south of us, or we may remain a part of the empire, while refusing co-operation. I say that the last course is beneath the dignity of any self-respecting citizen, and that is why I am taking the stand I propose to take on this great question. As to sinking our individuality and becoming a part of the great country to the south, no man in this House has greater respect for our friends to the south than I, and why should we not have respect for them? To use an expression of the Prime Minister's, very much the same blood courses through their veins as courses through ours. They are a great people whom we must admire commercially and politically. They have done great things. They are good neighbours, and there is nothing that gives us greater peace of mind and greater happiness than having good neighbours. We always want to be friendly with our neighbours and I hope we will always be good friends. But I judge and believe, from a sound knowledge of the people of this country, that very few people want to become annexed to this country.

Then comes the third possible course, the independence of this country. I know there are some who look towards independence as the great goal of our ambition, and I shall refer to these later on. The Prime Minister, in view of what he has said in this country and in other countries of our position and what we look forward to, cannot say that we have not some reason to ascribe to him some of the independent views which have been ascribed to

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him from this side of the House. But I say that apart from the right hon. gentleman and a few men throughout this country, there are very few who look forward to or want to look forward to the independence of Canada. Rather we look forward to the consolidation of this great empire, the empire on which the sun never sets, an empire with one-third of the world's population, one-third of its land. Her flag and her ships and her enterprising sons carry the ideas of justice and fair play across every sea and into all the world's ports, and we are proud, every one of us, that we belong to that great nation. There are so many reasons why we should be proud to belong to that nation that it would detain the House too long to state them.

Then there remains but this one thing, to remain a part of this empire. I am not with those who say remain with the empire, let them protect you and do all that they can for you, but refuse to do anything in return. There is a class of people in Canada, including many of the clergy, and I regret to say that there are some of that class in this city of Ottawa, who are fond of saying that we want to remain part of the empire but that we refuse co-operation. They say that Canada should not give anything in support of the naval defence of Great Britain. True it is that these gentlemen and other gentlemen often end their pious declarations with the words: But if the time should ever come when Canada is in need, then we will spend our last dollar for its defence, we will give our last man. Even Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in his address, said: If the time ever comes when the supremacy of Great Britain on the high seas is challenged, I will take the stump, I will go through this country, especially will I talk to my compatriots in Quebec, and say that the salvation of Canada depends on the salvation of England. That sounds good, but it is mostly sound. Does this House realize, do the people outside of this House throughout the country realize that over one billion dollars of British capital is invested in this great country of ours? Do they realize that over \$200,000,000 of British money is being invested in this country in one way and another every year? Do our people realize that we are the greatest borrowers of all the countries in the world from the motherland? If we do realize that, is it not some reason why we should be willing at least to do something towards the maintenance of this great country and its salvation, because we have to admit that the salvation of Great Britain and all its colonies absolutely depends upon the supremacy of Great Britain upon the high seas.

Let me read the borrowings of different countries from Great Britain. Of eight