

country when the news came that the King was sick and not able to attend the coronation ceremonies. What fear and distress was expressed on every countenance, how eagerly were the bulletin boards scrutinized from day to day, and how eagerly were they read, and how every symptom of returning health was hailed with pleasure and satisfaction. What greater evidence of the loyalty of the people could have been given than this? And with what pride we feel our position as an integral portion of the British Empire. It is indeed gratifying that His Excellency, when in London last summer, found a unanimity of feeling in regard to the empire, and that there was a unanimity of loyalty and sentiment in all portions of the great empire of which we form a part. The colonial conference to which the speech referred may be taken as an instance of the growing importance and power of the self-governing colonies. The time was—and that not very long ago—when even self-governing colonies were not consulted. We lost thirteen good colonies on one occasion through a failure to carry out this principle. Our statesmen, however, are growing wiser and more imperial in the true sense as time goes on. It is now well recognized that loyalty and liberty are synonymous terms. Upon all domestic internal affairs the population most interested are the ones to work these things out, and that without any interference. There are still some discordant voices heard within the empire, but there is every indication that those discordant voices will soon cease. The King knows well that if his throne is to be solid and entrenched, it must be in these modern days only in the affections of a free and a liberty-loving people, and we are now told that he is making efforts by which not only a portion of the empire, but that all portions of the empire shall be loyal and contented. We know that kindness goes a long way. Tennyson tell us that 'kind hearts are more than coronets and simple faith than Norman blood.' We have good reason to believe that the time is coming when all portions of the empire will be thoroughly loyal. And I feel sure that this colonial conference will be productive of much good. Many misconceptions of the Greater Britain will be removed and a better acquaintance will spring up

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from this meeting which will conduce to the peace and happiness of the whole empire.

Another question touched upon by His Excellency was the question of transportation and terminal facilities. This is a very large question, one which can only in this address be very lightly touched upon. The time is coming very rapidly when not only one transcontinental railway will be required, but a half dozen transcontinental railways will be necessary from one ocean to the other. The question of subsidies is one that I do not care to go into here at the present moment, but it may be possible that we have been too generous in the past. There are two sides, however, to the question, and I am not going to dogmatically say that we have been too generous now, but it is just possible that we may go to the other extreme and be so parsimonious when we come to take these matters into consideration that we may administer a blow to the Dominion of Canada that will take many years to recover from.

I am very glad to see that the government are disposed to appoint a commission who will go into this whole matter thoroughly, a commission of experienced men who will report upon this great subject, and with a report of that kind before us I am satisfied that parliament will be able to carry out such a policy as will promote in every way the best interests of the country.

It is also a matter of gratification to us all that a recent treaty has been made between the United States and Great Britain for the purpose of settling the vexed question of the Alaskan boundary. This question, of course, has arisen more particularly since the discovery of gold in the Yukon. The treaty made between Russia and Great Britain is vague, and it is now considered desirable that a correct interpretation should be given to it. For this purpose a treaty has been entered into between Great Britain and the United States, and we are told that six impartial jurists of repute are to be appointed. This certainly is good news to us all, because if the six jurists are impartial, the decision will be fair, and Canada will get her rights. Some, however, feel that the appointments made by the United States government will not bear out