

satisfactory acknowledgement of that fact. Take the language of the British Prime Minister:

"We found ourselves, gentlemen, upon freedom and independence—that is the essence of the imperial connection—freedom of action on the part of the individual states, freedom in their relations with each other, and with the Mother Country."

The Colonial Secretary (the first of his kind) said that he concurred

"in the principle which the Prime Minister laid down, that is to say, the freedom and independence of the different Governments which are part of the British Empire."

And the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Under-secretary of State for the Colonies spoke to the same effect. After those speeches, gentlemen, let no Canadian be afraid to speak of Canadian independence. It is "the essence of the Imperial connection"! Not everyone understands that, but to those who have studied the question it is now very clear. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has again and again given expression to it. I am not aware that Mr. Borden has done so in precise language, but all that he has said has been in hearty accordance with it.

We are now probably agreed that the road which Canada has been following leads to complete self-government, that is, to independence under the British Sovereign; and also that there is no appearance of halting upon that road. Now what precisely in such case, would be our position?

We should be free from control by anybody but ourselves; we should cease to be subordinate; we should be upon a footing of political equality with the United Kingdom itself; and we should not be a British Dominion "beyond the seas", but a Canadian Kingdom on this side of the seas in connection with the British Empire "beyond the seas." We should be what the fathers of our Federation looked forward to and hoped that we should be. We should have worked out the destiny which they foretold and of which they laid so well the foundations. It was Sir John A. Macdonald, himself, who wished for the title "The Kingdom of Canada" and it was he who said that he had in view

"the noble object of founding a great British monarchy in connection with the British Empire and under the British Queen . . . recognising the Sovereign of Great Britain" (not the Colonial Office you will observe) "as its sole and only head."

We should be, as the Marquis of Lorne somewhat prophetically said to us when leaving Canada:

"You are not the subjects but the allies of a great country, the country that gave you birth."

The language may be unfamiliar but the fact nevertheless is that King Edward is today the King of Canada. Shall not the future make us a Kingdom? Or shall we always be some sort of an inferiority?