

who colonized North America, though homogeneous and of either Spanish or Anglo-Saxon undoubted origin, have not always had interests or views similar to those of their mother lands, neither have the northern and southern sections of the United States, following the war of independence, always had similar views. And the question of bi-metalism, while it did not bring about such grievous animosities between the East and West, was an occasion of serious differences.

Within the very bounds of the Dominion, British Columbia, has not always been in unison with the other provinces on the question of oriental immigration—as my eloquent friend from Nanaimo (Mr. Ralph Smith) is aware—neither as regards its financial arrangements with the Dominion government. The Dominion government and the Ontario government have also been at loggerheads, especially regarding the license law, a difference which culminated in the carrying of the Hodge case, though unimportant as regards the amount involved, to the foot of the Throne. The province of Quebec has also occasionally differed from the other provinces. Finally, in England, a country wherein order and public opinion have a predominating influence, and make for stability to a remarkable degree, harmony has not always prevailed on important issues.

Some may object that these are questions of local government, and that when it comes to a question of national defence, the whole forces of the nation should be made to converge towards the attainment of one same object. But, in such a case the least that could be done would be to provide representation in the same measure as new obligations are imposed. And the plan proposed by the hon. member for Victoria and Haliburton (Mr. Hughes) though I cannot approve of it, would be more in harmony with the principle 'no taxation without representation,' than the system which consists in handing over the control to a country over whose administration we have not the slightest control.

Now, if diversity of interests and differences of opinion have arisen within the bounds of a single Dominion, there is still greater reason to expect that such differences exist or will assert themselves between countries separated by oceans. And the diplomatic wording, the ominous expressions, wherein such an emergency is deftly passed over, is necessarily pregnant with concealments and reservations.

Whoever puts himself at the mercy of others might just as well at the outset give up all contention of his own. The proposal agreed to at the last conference, the principle of which has been retained in this Bill, is preferable to the former system, inasmuch as it provides for the protection of Canada's special interests, and if, as we

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have reason to hope, the navy is to be built in Canada, it also ensures to the Canadian producer and worker the benefit of such contributions as we are called upon to make. That is why I approve of such proposal in preference to that of contributing without anything been granted in return, while we are ourselves deprived of all means of control.

It is that liberal policy of the home authorities which ensures to Great Britain the loyalty of its colonists and helps in maintaining her in the forefront of the nations of the world. Of all the dependencies of Great Britain, Ireland alone has been deprived of its autonomy, of its self government, and that at the beginning of the last century. Now, if I am not entirely mistaken, there is not much sympathy towards England to be found in Ireland than there is in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or even South Africa, whose conquest is of such recent date.

Equal rights and mutual consideration are better cementers of durable and true alliances than the mere exercise of force. However, it is from another view point that I propose dealing with this question.

If the philanthropic idea which inspired the Hague conference had been fully put into practice, the question which we are considering, as well as all questions of militarism, would have been solved in a thorough, final and world-wide manner. And if it were Canada's power, even through the expenditure of an amount equal to that necessitated for the establishment of a navy to take a hand in bringing about such a result, I do not say that I would oppose the government's proposal, for then there would be of course no occasion for the government introducing such a measure.

Of course, the great powers only are in a position to deal effectively with such a matter. The voice of a colony, whatever its importance, would not be heard. Sovereign countries only had representatives at the Hague conferences of 1899 and 1907. On the other hand, conferences between the mother country and ourselves are of frequent occurrence; and that means is always open to us of reaching the international concert, should we be more fearful of assuming a status of complete sovereignty,—an isolation which may be deemed alarming,—than other colonies which though weaker at the time than we are to-day, have been bold enough to assume such a status.

Universal peace is a dream of philanthropy, the carrying into effect of which may be permitted to wish for. Apart from her own forces and those of her colonies, England may rely on the help of the neighbouring republic a natural and powerful ally, and on the co-operation of her old-time rival, France, a friend to-day; and we