

the mother country in this readjustment, how much of the legislative functions was to be reserved to the Colonies; how much to be thrown into the hotch-potch at Westminster; whether the Colonies are to advance one step or to recede two steps in the plan of readjustment. The plan was, I believe, an expedient of an adroit imperial statesman who has never been regarded as strong either in his knowledge of the past or in his consistency in relation to the present, to distract attention from his shuffling in another quarter of the globe. It did have some enthusiastic advocates in the past but there are now none so poor as to do it reverence.

But is Canada likely to remain indefinitely a Colonial dependency? Even though her sons may be pretty well content with their present measure of Independence, are they likely to continue satisfied with it? I trust not. And gentlemen, if I may be permitted to indulge the expression of a fond hope, it is to see Canada take her place as one at the council board of the family of nations. The commercial supremacy of the old world is rapidly yielding to the new and the highway of the world's future traffic is quickly shifting from the Atlantic to the Pacific. If Canada is to have her share in the development of the trade of the Continent, she must be in a position to treat for herself untrammelled by the tortuous diplomacy of Downing Street.

Moreover, she must be in a position to hold out something better than colonialism if she is to attract the best and brightest that are leaving the older countries to seek better opportunities in the newer. But more than all that, her own children will never reach their best development, will never display their transcendent abilities till the obligations and responsibilities of nationality rest upon their own shoulders. Now in all this, I do not intimate that there is any substantial cause of complaint at Britain's present treatment of her colony. But even with that concession, there are gentlemen, and perhaps some about this board, whose pro-British proclivities are so acute that they protest against any intimation of Canada's assuming the obligations of nationality, since that step would involve, as they believe, a lessening of Britain's imperial power. They are willing to deny themselves greater opportunities that others may thrive upon their dependence. Their sensitiveness upon this point is but a symptom of a pronounced provincialism which our taste of what Burns calls

"The glorious privilege of being independent"

would promptly cure.

I do not know how others may have felt when they assumed the obligations of American citizenship; but for myself, I can truthfully say that when I repudiated the allegiance to the Sovereign of Great Britain which that act involved, I did so without bitterness or ill-will towards aught I left behind, with no spirit of resentment towards the old land, or of vainglory in the new. Yet, as I reflected upon the significance of what the change meant, I could not but be conscious of occupying an entirely different status in the body politic. It was an exchange of the allegiance of a colonist to his sovereign for citizenship in a Republic. That may appear an over-refinement and all this pure egotism. Yet I cannot refrain from adding that in the change I felt that I had turned about to face a phase of the world's civilization more in harmony with the equality of man than the one I had just abandoned, that