

the position of Judge of a Supreme Court entirely debars the Chief Justice from any active participation in other than the Judicial and private affairs of this life. But why cite this case when we have hundreds and thousands of such men; nearly every intelligent lawyer, I may say, every profound thinker in the country is a unionist.

But more important than these, more important than Chief Justice Armour's approval, is the fact that we have the Chief Justice of the Universe on our side. I verily believe that it is the design and will of Omnipotence that the English speaking peoples of the world shall federate for the preservation and advancement of the human race. Look at the map and history of North America and tell me what the Canadian Federation means. There we have welded together seven distinct colonies, and now we only have two parties to bring together and satisfy, instead of eight sets of men and eight sets of complications; even now Newfoundland is seriously discussing the advisability of coming into the union, and I and my friends are called traitors and renegades for believing in this union with all our hearts and souls, and acting accordingly. But Lowell answers our narrow, bigoted persecutors for us with these words:—

We owe allegiance to the State, but deeper, truer, more,
To the sympathies that God hath set within
our spirit's core—
Our country claims our fealty; we grant it so,
but then
Before man made us citizens, great nature
made us men.

Many of us believe in union, but we do not admit it even to ourselves, and we certainly would not call it annexation. There is often times more prejudice against the label on an article than there is against the thing itself. You could not induce some persons to drink milk out of a certain shaped bottle, and I must confess that I would examine well and make diligent inquiry before I would take even homeopathic medicine out of a wine glass.

To illustrate this point, let me tell you of an incident that actually took place in Toronto, the cultured Boston of Canada. When Dalton McCarthy introduced his now famous Dual Language measure in the House of Commons two years ago, the country was thrown into a ferment, and the burning question as to whether or not a dual language system should be imposed upon the great North-West Territories in perpetuity, was discussed in every home or place of meeting in the country. One intelligent (?) elector, a great defender of the altar and throne who did not seem to have a complete grasp of the question at issue, was heard to say "I don't mind French, German, English, or even Italian, but d—d if we will have dual language in this free country." That sounds funny, but it is no more absurd than the man who is willing to enter into a perpetual treaty of peace and free trade, including a postal union with the United States after having already adopted your decimal currency system and two-thirds of your domestic laws, but when it is called "annexation" he will have none of it.

The Conservative party believed, or pretended to believe, that the country would be made prosperous by extravagance and high taxation. We believe that we were going to rival this great republic and have two great friendly English speaking nations on this continent, but in 1891 when the census returns were made public we made the discovery that we had lost ground in one decade. We expected a fifty per cent. increase in our population, and had it not been for immigration we

would have had less people in the country than we had ten years before.

The publication of the census returns caused great discouragement and sorrow and it was the signal for thousands to leave the country, and in consequence we have from 8,000 to 8,000 vacant houses in Toronto. With the result that rents have gone down, property has become almost entirely unproductive, and our lands are just about as available for buying the necessities of life as Turkish Bonds or Confederate Scrip. Much of our wealth is wiped out and has now no existence except in our imaginations, and the only comfort we can take out of the situation is that we are landed proprietors in perpetuity, for no one will take our land off our hands at any price.

I was one of the short-sighted ones; but we have men in Canada who foresaw the coming events, and a friend laid the matter before me; I argued the point with him, but he met every argument in such a way that my eyes were opened, and in whatever quality I am lacking, I am not accused of being deficient in courage, hence as soon as I got light I was anxious to let others see. I was controlling a weekly paper at that time and I declared for union at once. I believe that mine was the first journal to do so in express terms. As soon as I declared myself I was privately hailed with great joy by hundreds of friends who I did not dream were so minded. I thought it advisable to call a public meeting to crystallize the adherents of union into an organized party; I then found that men were willing to think and talk one way and act another. I had but fifteen friends out of about forty who were present. The meeting broke up in great disorder.

A short time after this event I was in conversation with several friends in the western part of the Province. I claimed that open voting at public meetings on this question would be greatly to our disadvantage. One man said: "Why not print and distribute a ballot and let the people say what they want; when they vote against union now they only say what they don't want." Last March I was invited to attend a meeting in a small inland town called "Paris." I took charge of all the arrangements, invited three other speakers, and had ballots printed with five questions on them. There was a small disturbing element but we managed to submit the ballot, with this result:

Remain as we are.....	69
Independent monarchy.....	2
Independent republic.....	6
Imperial federation.....	1
Political union with the United States..	109

Thus union had a majority of 31 over all other shades of opinion.

It is well known that the people along the border (smugglers excepted), feel the inconvenience of the international line more directly than any others, and they and the farmers are nearly all unionists: their influence is discounted because it is said their principles are based on personal interest, as if the whole world were not actuated by similar motives; however we are more anxious about the inland towns, for if restrictionists have any stronghold it is there.

We held several meetings, but Sir Oliver Mowat's henchmen would not allow a vote to be taken. Twenty or thirty men may not be able to run a meeting their own way, but we have all known meetings where one man prevented the transaction of business. I take the results of the