

then a policy was established of Canadian nationality within the empire. That was our ideal, Canadian resources for Canadian development, Canadian and British capital for Canadian industry, Canadian workmen for Canadian production, and Canadian routes for Canadian trade. That was in the economic and political ideal of Canada as it gradually evolved itself from the depths and uncertainty of 1866 and 1869, and first formulated itself and next got its place in the hearts and affections of the people. Then, Sir, blood pulsed in our veins, new hopes fired our hearts, new horizons lifted and widened, new visions came to us in the night watches. We faced geography and distance and fought them to a standstill. We shamed the croaker and the pessimist and the coward into silence, and then recreated him into a good citizen at the glowing fires of optimism and of hope. The plains were shod with steel, the mountains tamed and tunnelled, our national arteries were well filled with a rich blood of commerce, our industries grew, our workmen multiplied, our villages became towns and our towns became cities with astonishing rapidity. Across the seas, we clasped hands with our sister nations within the empire, and surrounded us with a cordon of defence of the old empire that gave birth to us all.

And with all this we have made great material progress. Can any one doubt it? In all this struggle and toil, when was the hand of the United States extended to us with helpful aid? Not in one single case. This land is ours, we have made it, we and our fathers—please God we will keep it for our children and our children's children, to the remotest generation. We have not wrought so in order to bestow a great gift upon a rich nation, we are wrought to build ourselves a national home with a fireside and altars of our own for ourselves and for those who come after us in this great

far-thrown country that God has given to us for our own.

This proposal cuts square across that national ideal, challenges it at every point, will endanger it undoubtedly, may destroy it entirely. Should we not think before we enter into it? Ninety-three millions to the south of us mean it in the way of absorption and hegemony and mean it in no other way, hence these gifts; this proposal cuts our country into sections and at every section bleeds the life blood out of it. The well-filled arteries of interprovincial trade will be drained from until the whole system grows anemic and flabby. Do not treat it lightly, the sustained pressure of ninety-three millions to eight millions, the far-reaching effect of business affiliation, the close proximity and constant efflux and influx, the seductions of commercialism, the constant intercourse of business, social and official life, will inevitably weaken the ties of empire and wean the affections of our newer generations, if not of ourselves, towards the predominant power, create new attachments, until like Samson we would arise and would shake ourselves and find that our strength is gone.

I utter the most solemn words I have ever uttered in my life, and I believe them to the very bottom of my heart, that there is danger, and deep danger ahead. This path entered upon leads us away from home to a strange country in the light of nationality and ideal. I pray, Sir, that the full meaning of this first step may sink into the hearts of these members of parliament and into the hearts of the people of this country until there shall burst forth a protest of such strength that the step contemplated will be recalled and the old paths, leading east and west, amongst our own people, converging on the great metropolis of the motherland, may be followed without uncertainty and without doubt to the national ideal.