

sued the path of folly, those of the other either concurred in or made little or no effort to counteract that folly; and certainly both failed to bring before the people at the General Election, the Country's unprotected condition, its utter dependence upon the United Kingdom, and the continual and ever augmenting menace that exists to our integrity as a Nation through the growing inability of Great Britain to maintain and sustain an Imperial Navy Force commensurate with the requirements of the Empire, without the co-operation of the other sections of the Empire.

"All roads lead to Rome"; and all these propositions were approachable from our own immediate affairs, as well as through the intricacies of the Tariff Reform movement in Great Britain and the Intra-Empire Tariff proposals which are a corollary, or natural sequence of its success. But none of these themes were admitted to the propaganda of either party during the recent Election to Canada's National Parliament. And what is more, the man who attempted to introduce or speak on any of them, was peremptorily tabooed, or politely told that while he might thunder and philosophise like a Burke, or arouse enthusiasm like a Demosthenes, or a Pitt, a Gladstone or a Beaconsfield, he was stirring up controversies that had better be allowed to slumber for the next half century or so. This was the caucus mandate; and it could not be contravened.

Silence is sometimes as eloquent as words; and no silence is more eloquent than the silence of cowardice.

THE ELOQUENT SILENCE OF COWARDICE during the Election is one of the charges that I bring against the Leaders of the people, concerning the question that has now so rapidly unfolded, and overtopped every other question.

Eloquent silence is not, however, their only offence.

Some of these Leaders availed themselves of other times and opportunities, when the *Vox Populi*, the Voice of the People, could not be heard, to secure the *Auris Populi*, the Ear of the People, and to inculcate as pernicious, and as fatal doctrines as ever were enunciated. Even

in the midst of the present commotion, these doctrines are being rung in our ears.

We are told by Tergiversators, in the form of Politicians, and by narrow-minded Egoists, in the form of Journalists, that though Canada is a Nation, she is in no need of a Navy; that she is a peace-loving Country, without aggrandizing ambition; that she is perfectly safe and absolutely secure; and that she is less an object of envious aggression in her defencelessness than if she were armed and fully protected both by land and sea. Some of them even say that, supposing a hostile attack were contemplated on Canada, *Canada has an adequate guarantee of her safety in the Monroe doctrine.*

These insane declarations would be dangerous indeed if those who enunciate them really believed them. But they do not believe them. They use them for temporizing purposes; and they fulminate them for the sake of bluster. These declarations are contradictory of the most self-evident facts, both of history and of actual conditions.

Because we are a peace-loving Country and devoid of aggrandizing ambition, is no deterrent to the warlike and aggressive propensities of others. If it were, then the United States, in their Naval and Military expenditure, must be colossal fools. The *Monroe doctrine* is their doctrine; it is a doctrine of non-aggression; but it has never been a doctrine of passive resistance. The astute "Yankee" of the days of Monroe, extreme puritan though he may have been, did not sport with his Country's destiny. The United States of to-day have only recently been brought face to face with a condition that ratified the wisdom of those who, while preaching peace, prepared vigorously for war. The *Monroe doctrine*, in fact, was not what these praters in Canada say it was. It was essentially a challenge to the World; and the States, from the start of their National existence, prepared to put the World at defiance.

If they had been content to act in accordance with the interpretation of the *Monroe doctrine* now made by these