

hood, as a development that gave untrammelled expression to our national desires and did not sacrifice them to union with the Empire. Nor can it be doubted that the Empire rests on a securer basis if the inner national spirit of its members is vigorous and derives its strength from a proud sense of self-reliance that if such spirit were absent because of its absorption in the Empire. I fail to agree that a strong national consciousness within the Dominion is at variance with a larger patriotism. To-day it may seem to many observing minds that Canadians are no longer deeply interested in the Empire or the problem of its future. If there is this self-absorption it is not to be wondered at. The imagination of its people is bound to be profoundly stirred by the significance of the progress the Dominion is making. It is a frame of mind that will not forever obtain, and it does not for a moment mean want of sympathy with the Empire. For the present the Empire is in a transition stage because of the evolution going on in Canada and others of the large self-governing states.

So far as we in Canada are concerned, until we have achieved a considerable measure of the larger national growth that is so rapidly coming upon us, we cannot determine what our relations to the Empire should be, or what form of unity would best conserve our interests and aspirations. When the Dominion has gained the proportions of a nation and the spirit of nationality is abundant within it, it is certain that its people will be vividly aware of the advantage and greatness of their Imperial destiny. Though in the meantime the Empire does not appear to be making conscious and defined progress towards a fixed goal, a change is taking place in the fortunes and status of its different members that is carrying it forward to a scale of dignity and grandeur scarcely dreamed of when the Imperial movement began. In those days no one intimately foresaw that a future of vast power was just ahead of Canada or that it was to become a bulwark of surpassing strength to the Empire. With us federation was felt to be a greater need than it was thought to be to Great Britain. A larger vision is now ours.