

to demand representation, if there is any such thing as contribution;—if an issue is forced upon us, my personal sentiments are well known. The gradual development of autonomy, till we reach the point where we can be an independent nation, a friendly ally of Great Britain and France, the two nations with which the people of our country are most naturally connected, would be, in my mind, the highest ideal that could be looked for by the Canadian people. But if the majority of the people in Canada, whether of English or French descent, choose to stick with the Empire, I am ready to abide by the decision. If the people of Canada choose to enter into closer partnership with the people of the British Isles, again I say, when the people of Canada have spoken on that point, there will be no portion of the Canadian people more ready to abide by the decision than the people of Quebec, even the “bad” Nationalists. We have never concealed our views in that respect. All we ask is that the whole people should be consulted and speak freely. If we have Imperial partnership, all right; but let it be true Imperial partnership, based on a fair apportionment of power and responsibility, and not partnership to be exercised only by the assumption of new obligations on the part of Canada.

The formula, I am afraid, is pretty far distant, which will give acknowledgement to that principle of justice. When invented and put into practice,—if ever it is—I do not think it would be possible of duration; yet I would ten times rather have full Imperial partnership and real Imperial Federation, than the two low, undignified solutions now offered to us by the two political parties of Canada; because, those two solutions, one under one form and the other under the other form, both scented of tribute, they both mean that the Canadian people... (A voice : “Willingly!”)

True, willingly. There are two means of paying the tribute: one is by being reduced into subjection, the other, by doing it voluntarily—but they both mean that