

worked on behalf of Liberalism in Ontario, having fought to a finish the Hon. Sir John Macdonald, having struggled as few men have ever struggled in support of the liberty of the state and the individual liberty of the subject, forgetful of the animosities springing from political strife, forgetful of party associations and affiliations, in the interests of his country and in the hope of building up a great nation on this continent under the British flag and the British Queen, joined hands with his old opponents with a view to accomplishing the great aims which he thought to be in the great interest of the people. He said:

But I cannot conclude without referring to some other influences which have received the grave attention of the conference. And the first point to which I desire to call attention is the fact that the delegates have unanimously resolved that the united provinces of British Columbia shall be placed at the earliest moment in a state of thorough defence.

This utterance was heard in Toronto the Good with cheers.

I am not one of those who conceive that Canada stands in danger of attack from our neighbours across the lines. I cannot doubt that they have plenty of work already on their hands without rushing on fresh embroilments, and I confess that notwithstanding the fierce ebullitions of the American press, I have faith in the good sense and good feelings of our neighbours to believe that the idea of unprovoked aggression on the soil of Canada never seriously entered the minds of any large number of the inhabitants of the Northern States. But come war when it may, I am sure, I speak of the sentiments of every man in Upper Canada when I say that the first hostile foot placed upon our shores would be the signal of summons to every man capable of bearing arms to meet the enemy, (enthusiastic cheers), and that the people of Canada would show in the hour of peril that the spirit manifested in 1812 is not dead in 1864.

Is it dead in 1913, or is it nearly gone? 'We can't find men; we will not fight' forsooth. 'We are so engrossed with the development of our country, we are so taken up with the demands of our own small concerns, that we are willing to send our money to Great Britain and have them defend our shores and fight our battles. Is that the calibre of the latter-day Canadian? Is the spirit of 1812, which still lived in 1864, gone completely? I think it is merely sleeping. And I think our friends opposite will soon realize that there will be a great awakening. If they are but given an opportunity, they will realize that the spirit that swept over this land in 1812, and which still existed in 1864, was in evidence in 1909 still exists to-day as well. Hon. George Brown continued:

Mr. EMMERSON.

And, while on this point of defence, I have one word to say on a matter which I know has made a deep impression throughout Canada. Sir, no man in Canada appreciates more than I do the generous consideration that has ever been shown by the Mother Country towards this province. But I desire to enter a firm protest against the manner in which of late our duty has been laid down for us, chapter and verse, by gentlemen three thousand miles off, who know very little of our circumstances, and yet venture to tell us the exact number of men we are to drill and the time we are to drill them. Sir, I venture to assert that the language recently used towards this province is neither just, nor yet calculated to promote a desirable end. This province, like the other colonies of the British Empire, was founded on a compact entered into between the Crown and the people; an assurance was virtually given to those who emigrated to this province that they should be protected by all the strength of the British arms. And nobly has Great Britain fulfilled that promise. Never has she hesitated for a moment to expend her blood and treasure in defending her colonial Empire. I hold that Great Britain is bound to fulfil on her part the conditions on which the settlement of this and other colonies took place, and to continue to aid us until we have grown to that degree of maturity and strength which will fairly demand at our hands a reconsideration of the terms of the contract. If I am asked whether Canada, united with the lower provinces, is able to take upon herself a larger share of the burden of defence than she has heretofore borne, I answer without hesitation, undoubtedly yes. It was utterly unreasonable to expect that to these colonies the people of England should much longer send armies and navies for their defence, whilst we continued developing the resources of our country, and accumulating wealth untaxed for the appliances of war. But what I do say is this, that when the time arrives that a colony has outgrown the conditions of her first settlement, and when she is fairly bound to assume new and higher relations to the Mother Country in the matter of defence, it is only right that the whole subject should be discussed in a candid and reasonable spirit. And I am free to express my opinion that had the Canadian people been invited frankly to enter on a discussion of the changed relations in matters of defence they ought to occupy to Great Britain, the demand would have been responded to readily and heartily. And it is only due to the present colonial minister, Mr. Cardwell, to say that this is the spirit in which he seems desirous of approaching the question; and that such is the spirit in which I believe negotiations hereafter will be carried on between these colonies and the parent state. It is not to be concealed that we in Canada are deeply interested in this whole question of colonial defence being thoroughly discussed and settled. We all heartily desire to perpetuate our connection with Great Britain; but it is quite evident that a feeling is growing up in England which may prove dangerous to that good feeling and attachment, unless the duties and responsibilities mutually due are clearly understood. And there is another, though a much inferior motive. The attacks which have been made