

a detriment to your revenue of perhaps a million or two—a gift you fling at the foot of the throne, a specific and tangible gift acknowledging your relation to the Empire, and one which you would not have given were it not for your fealty to the Empire."

This appreciation of British trade has called attention to Canada in a very special manner, and I have spoken to men in Liverpool and Manchester who, in the kindest terms, expressed appreciation of what we have done. (Applause.) To get at the heart of the business men of England, to get a kindly touch between the great course of English trade and the smaller streams which flow from this land, is an advantage that will bring much greater results in the future than it has yet done. I am confident of this.

CANADA AND THE WAR.

In the third place, the attitude of Canada towards the Empire in the South African war, the sacrifices we made, and the chivalrous manner in which we sent our sons to fight the battles of the Empire, the loyal spirit we then showed, have struck a sympathetic chord in the hearts of the English people that perhaps nothing else would have done, (Cheers.) It was an occasion of common danger, it was an occasion when the Empire felt a great contest could only be settled in a strenuous way, and although Britain felt equal to the task alone, to find Canada and the Colonies come to her assistance—not so much because she needed it as because the colonial spirit is a loyal spirit—impressed colonial loyalty on the Empire as never before. Then there is the fact that a distinguished Canadian, Lord Strathcona, at his own expense, contributed so materially to the conduct of the war; this, I think, added all that need be said to indicate why the feeling towards Canada has improved as it has in the last fifteen years.

I was glad of this, because I was impressed on former occasions with what appeared to me to be a spirit of indifference; I felt as if the people of Britain looked upon Canada as one of her colonies, of course to be preserved, but with no special interest, and I remonstrated, as perhaps some of you may have noticed, in some speeches on the extent to which that indifference prevails still. Much as has been done in the last four or five years, much yet remains to be done. I must not charge the people of the British Empire with indifference; that would be an unfair charge, but I do say we are not yet known as well as we ought to be. While there may not be the same intense interest on the part of Imperial statesmen in Canadian affairs as I think there ought to be, still I think we have not ourselves done our full duty.

A SPIRIT OF INDIFFERENCE.

Looking at the Empire from the centre, and I tried to put myself in the place of British statesmen in the last three or four months, I found