

as eloquently described by Webster, has 'become a great power to which Rome in the height of her glory was not to be compared—a power which has dotted the whole surface of the globe with its possessions and military posts, whose morning drum-beat, following the sun and keeping company with the hours, circles the earth daily with one continuous and unbroken strain of martial airs.' This is called the most eloquent description of the British Empire, but personally I prefer the description of the English statesman who said that the British Empire was 'the greatest secular agency for good that the world has ever known.'

"The Raleigh Patent, it is said, was drafted by the great Coke, and it provided that those inhabiting the territories which Raleigh should acquire 'shall and may have all the privileges of denizens and persons native of England and within our allegiance in such like ample measure and in such manner and form as if they were borne and personally resident within our Realme of England.' This memorable document also gave full power and authority to govern and rule 'according to such statutes, lawes and ordinances as shall be by him, the said Walter Raleigh, his heirs and assigns, and any or all of them, devised or established for the better government of the said people as aforesaid. So always as the said statutes, lawes and ordinances be as neere as conveniently may be agreeable to the form of the lawes, statutes, government and policie of England.'

"Raleigh anticipated the self-government which now prevails in all parts of the British Empire capable of exercising self-government. That certainly includes Canada, where for many years we have had complete self-government in domestic affairs. It is true that before the war, questions of foreign policy were decided by the British (Imperial) Government, as trustee for the whole British Empire. The Ministers of the Imperial Government are responsible to the British Parliament, that is, to the electors of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. It was felt that some adequate remedy must be found for this condition of affairs, which would give Canadians as full and complete rights with regard to foreign policy, to the question of peace and war, as Englishmen, Welshmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen.