

VIII.

I believe in an individual patriotism that is prepared to stand by a communal patriotism for the protection of the rights of the Empire to which we Canadians constitutionally belong, against any outside assailant of it or of Canada in whole or in part.

In union there is strength; and to keep the said strength wholesome as a breeder of further strength and not of disintegrating decay, there has to be eliminated from it all overstraining from sectional deteriorating friction. Individual patriotism is an instinct born of national unity. It lives and moves and has its being from the communal patriotism that sees after the maintaining of the liberty of the subject and the protection of the State. Canada can only continue in its present national strength towards a greater national strength, from the acquired instinct of a unitedness of action which has come to it as a legacy from the British Empire. The prestige of the British Empire forms an outer protection of the Canadian Commonwealth. And hence it is, that Canadian patriotism, with a within and without in its make-up, has a savour about it of other than the patriotism of an independent principality. Indeed, there are some people who claim that there is more of a freedom to be had in Canada than even in the Motherland itself, in spite of the provincialism that is sometimes inclined to narrow down what we call "the love of country" into a parochialism. Were our Canadianism to be stripped of an Empire's prestige and protection there is no saying what would happen to it. And it is this very dubiety as to what might happen, which inclines the individual patriotism of Canada to take an international pride from the world-wide scope of Imperialism—a pride which certainly enhances rather than deteriorates the flavour of our Canadianism. The attempt to strike a balance-sheet between what Canada owes to the Empire and what the Empire owes to Canada is only a puerile trifling with the machinery of the union that makes for a wholesome strength, in our continuing relationships with the Empire and with ourselves.

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The law of the land sanctions the aiding of the Motherland in its wars, by Canada and its several provinces. That law is not beyond being abrogated, as the laws of the Medes and Persians are said to have been. But what Canadian, worthy the name, would have it abrogated, considering the unsettling dubiety there is as to what might happen to Canada after its abrogation? The Commonwealth of Canada is not as yet matured enough in its nationhood to go it alone