

but never published, after making comparisons in respect of forces in the Empire unfavorable to closer union—the Sinn Feiners in Ireland, the Nationalists in Quebec, the Boers in South Africa (then a problem) and the I. W. W. element of labor in Australia, I said, and in almost every particular the conclusions apply today and even more strikingly on account of subsequent events:

“Canada is the key of the situation. She set the example of local self-government in respect of the federal principle, and her example will be followed by other Dominions. The racial situation in South Africa is not unlike that in Canada, where Great Britain fought for ascendancy for the rights of British subjects; then handed the country back to local self-control without even a try to hold it in check. South Africa can now, as she has been in the past, be controlled by financial influence, but Canada’s example of disintegration would be most infectious. In Australasia the Labor party are actuated in politics by a spirit of democracy whose principal objection to British connection is to kings, queens, lords and the like; but it is essentially British throughout, and when national considerations arise, when the safety and defence of the great Southern archipelago are in question, would not hesitate to consolidate with other portions of the Empire for a common purpose. Nevertheless, the spirit of independence is strong among all classes, and young blood is hot blood. New Zealand is like Australasia, only more British in spirit, and would not act alone. Newfoundland might join Canada in forming a new nation, but whether or not, situated as it is, it would not be a factor to be considered.

“I have referred to the French-Canadians and to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, their national leader, as possessing racial instincts and national ideals as fundamentally and radically opposed to British supremacy or British hegemony. I have referred to the Irish Nationalists in much the same way; and to the Boers of South Africa, and the Labor party of Australasia. Born among French-Canadians in Quebec, I know them