

duty to protect our neighbour's buildings from fire, we admit the existence of a still stronger moral or legal obligation to contribute annually of our financial resources to maintain, continuously, fire insurance upon our neighbour's property for our neighbour's adequate protection against fire.

This really vital issue cannot be for a long time obscured by mere nomenclature or by sophistry. The Canadian people are not disposed to rest quiescent under continuous taunts as to their alleged shameless indifference to imperial duties and despicable niggardliness in contributions to imperial defense. They do not deserve and they certainly resent the imputation that they are wanting in manly independence and in self-respect. They are willing, and many are even anxious, to pay their shot man for man; but, if there is to be a partnership in obligations to contribute for imperial defense, they insist upon being admitted to participate in the direction and control of the destinies of the Empire.

Every Canadian of French descent knows full well that every important colony of France is invited to be represented directly in the chamber of deputies which represents the French Republic, and none can understand that citizens, of so important a British colony as Canada, should be expected to contribute for imperial purposes while they are utterly deprived of constitutional representation in imperial affairs.

Canadians of British and of French descent alike prefer to work out their national destiny within, rather than without the British Empire; but they first look to their own representatives, in their own Parliament and in their own Government, to ascertain by tactful negotiation with the British Government, and to ascertain definitely, whether the British people are willing to share their imperial responsibilities with the so-called Colonists who now inhabit and who are destined to develop the northern half of this North-American Continent, until it shall become the home of many millions of happy, vigorous and prosperous people. It is in this position, as it seems to me, this momentous issue now rests, and here I leave it for your careful, intelligent and dispassionate consideration.