

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. Such a remedy, which there is not time to describe, was found during the great War. In future, Canada will have an effective voice on all questions of foreign policy which affect her.

Canada's services and sacrifices in the War fully entitle her to the equal partnership she has achieved in the commonwealth of nations we call the British Empire, of which Canada is, and will, I hope, ever remain, an integral part.

You will pardon this digression. I was proceeding to point out that the Common Law of England, founded on and indeed embodying the principles of justice and liberty, and brought from the old world to the new, now prevails not only in the English-speaking part of the British Empire but also throughout the United States, except in Louisiana. It is not necessary for my purposes here to trace further the history of the Virginia Charter from which I have quoted, or to state in detail the steps to what was effectively described by Sir Frederick Pollock, one of the great Jurists of our time, as the expansion of the Common Law.

Perhaps I should explain that up to the end of the last century, Western Europe and America, or at least all the parts where there was "The Reign of Law" were governed by one of two systems of law, the Civil Law founded on the Roman Law, and the Common Law of England.

While I prefer the Common Law, I am not criticizing the Civil Law, or the Roman Law, on which it was founded. The Code of Justinian and the Napoleonic Code are among the noblest and most beneficent achievements of the human intellect. The principles of the Roman Law now govern a large part of the civilized world, not by reason of Imperial power but by the imperial power of reason, if we may so paraphrase the famous saying of Portalis.

"Non ratione imperii, sed  
imperio rationis."