

the north. If it would have been a stupid thing for this English speaking people to establish a new row of custom houses from the Potomac to the Rocky Mountains, so now it is unwise to continue the one already established a few hundred miles further north. If it was worth the price we paid to preserve the Union of the people and states from St. Paul to the Gulf of Mexico then it is of vital importance to secure American unity from Duluth to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, from the Golden Gate to Sitka and from the place where we are today to the Arctic zone.

Between this country and Canada separation leads to ignorance; ignorance begets hatred; hatred will in time breed hostilities. Thus far circumstances have prevented this result. In spite of our separation for over a century—in spite of the recent fooling with edge tools on the part of Canadian officials—in spite of the threats in the Canadian Senate that our Atlantic cities would hear “the voice of British cannon” and the intimation of the London press that behind Canadian cannon we shall find British gun boats, we have retained our good humor and the people of both countries have remained good friends. But we cannot expect this state of things always to continue.

Whenever England shall again attempt to use Canada as twice before she has—in the Revolution and in 1812—as a base of operations against this country and force the issue of war upon us, our whole people north and south, east and west, will strike for continental unity as the only safe defence from such an attack. Our sons, if worthy of their sires, will continue our work. While we fought to prevent the destruction and disintegration of the American Union, they will fight to add to it and build it up—for American unity—as did Robert Rogers and Stark and Washington and our ancestors before the Revolution. Our sons

will complete what the Revolutionary heroes were compelled to leave unfinished, the total emancipation of the North American continent from British dominion.

Unless, when the supreme moment comes, we are not better prepared for defence than now, the war will be unnecessarily prolonged and our loss of life and treasure needlessly great. Canada would be crushed again and again between the upper and the nether millstones, and, if in the end we won, as I believe we should, however desperate and long-continued the fighting, England would come out of the contest shorn of her glory forever, Canada a part of the United States, her other colonies independent, Ireland free and India transferred to the czar, whose “winter palace” would then be found on the banks of the Bosphorus.

Comrades, if I have spoken to you more of the future possible wars of the Republic, than of the past, it is because I look upon you, not as men whose work is finished, but as citizens alive to the welfare of our country, who have dearly earned the right to a voice in its affairs.

Canada is necessary to our national defence. If England would have the moral support and sympathy of her first born, let her cease her display of military strength upon our borders and terminate the standing menace of her occupation of Canada; let her deal fairly by us on the seas and, at least toward us, drop her old time buccaneering swagger. Sometime, sooner or later, England's hour of peril may come. It would be safer for her to trust the natural affection of a proud and powerful people than blindly seek to fetter and bind the great leviathan of the west with her marine cables and her military railways, her battle ships and her fortified strongholds.

The manifest destiny of this country is to control this continent.