

Our Own Land

master on his own farm. All these valuable privileges were not won in a day, but were the results of the struggles of our people from 1792 until the establishment in 1867 of the Federal Union, which invited the provinces on the basis of a central government having control of all matters of general and national import, and of several provinces having jurisdiction over such matters of provincial and local concern as are necessary to their existence as distinct political entities within a confederation. Today, our Dominion of Canada may be regarded as subject to the following authorities, viz:—the Queen as the head of the executive authority; the Imperial parliament; the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as the court of last appeal for the whole empire; the government of the Dominion made up of Governor-General, a Privy Council and a Parliament; the government of the provinces, that is to say a Lieutenant-Governor, an Advisory Council and a Legislature or Provincial Parliament. After these the courts of law which determine all disputed questions and all questions affecting the construction of the written constitution.

We are not so wholly materialistic, so entirely absorbed in trade and commerce that we cannot deeply feel the sentiments of patriotism and nationality, and on the wall laid on these broad foundations, build in the traditions of a brief but glorious past, and surely these traditions deserve our warmest appreciation. Ours is a country that for eighty years has, with a scarcely noticeable exception, been blessed with a peace almost providential in its calmness and duration; a peace that has furnished us ample opportunities of exploring a wondrous territory that stretches from ocean to ocean; a peace that has permitted us to discover the marvellous and incalculable wealth, resting in the womb of our country, to be brought forth by future generations and utilized for their benefit; a peace that has allowed us every

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