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THE SUPREME COURT AND THE NATION.

Imperialists strong in their conviction that the British Empire is to stand, and foreseeing the day when much of the burden of its maintenance will have been transferred to the great Dominion, view not with disquietude but with unrestrained sympathy the fast-rising national consciousness of the people of Canada. They recognize that the Empire to endure must be stronger in some of its component parts than it is to-day, and that the mother country alone will not forever be equal to the tremendous task of upholding it. Canada, small in population, stunted in development and destitute of national spirit, would be a source of weakness to the Empire at its most vulnerable point. To some minds the attachment between ourselves and the motherland was more real and vital when our sense of dependence upon it was greater than it is to-day and when our aspirations towards a national ideal grouped themselves exclusively about the greatness and sovereignty of the parent state.

A new and more adequate conception of Imperialism has arisen with the advance to nationhood of Canada and other overseas members of the Empire. It is perceived that the full realization of the ideal of empire can only be reached by the preservation to each of its parts of the utmost scope for the attainment of its own national life. The Empire will exist as an alliance or partnership between free and equal states, bound together by a sense of kinship which it is hoped will never die out and common interests having more than sentimental value. An Imperialism that dwarfed the national life of the outlying portions of the Empire by completely centering the spirit of their people in the larger life of the world-wide fabric of Imperial rule, could never be as attractive to ourselves, once we realized the extent of our resources and our fitness for nation-