

terms of partnership, it is beneath our dignity as a British community to contribute one cent directly or indirectly, regularly or spasmodically, to imperial armaments. I do not know whether this is right or wrong; but it is good British doctrine, based on British history.

CANADA'S FUTURE

I have spoken quite plainly as to the present. As regards the future, I will give you my sincere thought in the same manner. It would be better for all, for Canada and the Empire, to go gradually along the lines that have been adopted by the wisest men in the history of the Empire, as the only ground upon which it is possible to secure harmony and free co-operation between the Motherland and the Colonies. As long as we remain in that state, we should do and fulfil our duty in the maintenance of the Empire by organising in a practical manner the defence of that portion of the Empire over which we have control. It is both undignified and foolish for us, at the present time, to go and help in the maintenance of a navy over which we have no control, when we have not yet taken the elementary precautions to make this part of the Empire safe. Sixteen years ago, the Imperial Defence Committee told us that we should organise the defence of our harbours, shores and land frontiers; and we have not yet spent one cent on home protection. Three years ago, Gen. French came here and told us, in as polite a language as an English gentleman can use, that our militia would be absolutely inoperative in time of war; and yet, it is still in the same situation.

As to our national destiny, it is for the Canadian people to decide. If a new solution is forced upon us,—and forced it will be the moment we abandon the safe path we have followed to the present time, forced the moment we begin to contribute; because I believe you have preserved enough of your British traditions, of British pride, that it will not be from Quebec, but from Toronto and Ontario, that will start the first voice