

would have been overwhelmed. Ought we to be grateful for all that?

Have I sufficiently disposed of the first period of our history? If British money was, during that time spent, in one sense, in the defence of Canada, was it not, in a much truer sense, spent for the purpose of protecting caged ostriches in order that money might be made by plucking their feathers? And as to the war of 1812-4, is not the correct view, that Canada was fighting to the extent of her last man and dollar in support of stupid British assertions with reference to United States ships? Do we really owe some millions for that?

SECOND PERIOD.—At the beginning of this period, our commercial restrictions were very largely removed. We ceased to be plucked, and the British people at once wanted to know whether we were of any further use to them—why should we not “break the bonds and go?” (a). Troops, nevertheless (although in ever-diminishing numbers) were left among us, and they were paid out of the British treasury. Were they not here for the defence of Canada? What have I to say about this period? I make several replies:

1. Advantages connected with the retention of control over us were still thought to be a sufficient consideration for the reduced expenditure.

2. Much of the military expenditure was useless, and much more was spent in imperial interests as distinguished from the interests of Canada.

3. The naval expenditure was entirely imperial. Indeed it would have been increased, and not diminished, by the secession of Canada.

4. The proper co-relative of control over foreign policy is, and has always been acknowledged to be, protection AGAINST THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT POLICY. As control relaxes, protection is withdrawn. While it lasts, protection against it is not a generosity, but a duty.

5. In the case of Canada, that duty has never been performed. By repeated concessions of our interests, protection of us has been eluded and avoided. A few words upon each of these five replies:

FIRST REPLY.—The advantages of retention of control (as offset against expenditure) were partly sentimental and partly sub-

(a) For a somewhat complete account of this period see Vol. I of these Papers, pp. 32-44.