debt which they claim Canadians are under to Great Britain for the liberties we in Canada now enjoy. The fact is, as is fully shown by history, that Canada's political freedom and the liberties Canadians now possess were achieved neither through the liberality, justice or spirit of fair play of British statesmanship, but through the patriotism labors and struggles, of such great Canadian statesmen and reformers as the two Papineaus, William Lyon Mackenzie, LaFontaine, Morin, Baldwin and others in face of the bitter and persistent opposition of the dominating Imperial statesmen of the period. In fact every step that was made towards national autonomy on the part of Canada was at first stubbornly resisted by British statesmen. Even the present Premier of the Dominion Sir Robert Borden, ardent Imperialist though he is, has publicly declared that in all important instances the claim to self government when first made by Canada was resisted by British statesmen and only conceded in the last resort.

The achievement of responsible government and the political freedom of Canadians, through the efforts of those two great Canadians LaFontaine and Baldwin, naturally foreshadowed the dissolution of the union of the two Canadas which had been effected in 1841 as the result of Lord Durham's famous report. That Union, though it had been marked by many important reforms and decided material expansion and prosperity, was at best but a political makeshift. The great questions which had occupied men's minds having been removed from the parliamentary arena, political life degenerated into a mere selfish struggle of parties for power. Not one of these parties was numerically strong enough to dominate the situation and as a result petty squabbles took the place of statesmanlike action. Something was needed to inspire new life into the body politic, to replace the spirit of sectionalism by a true national outlook. That something was found in the idea of a great Confederation uniting all the scattered and divided provinces of British North America into a mighty commonwealth with complete national autonomy. It was a magnificent idea and the results were to be of supreme importance.