

lier occasion he declared. "Whilst remaining French, we are profoundly attached to British institutions." Another eminent French-Canadian — Sir Etienne Pascal Taché — once uttered a phrase which has become famous and which trenchantly describes the political attitude of his compatriots. "The last shot fired on American soil," he affirmed, "in defence of the British flag would be fired by a French-Canadian."

It should be emphatically stated at this point that despite their satisfaction with British connexion, the French-Canadians, almost to a man, and many of their English-speaking neighbours, are resolutely opposed to imperial federation in its various aspects. The ideal of the imperialists may be defined as a conception of the Empire as an organic whole, consisting of nations independent in local affairs and having distinct individualities, but by virtue of certain great common interests developing a common policy and a common life. They would have all matters having an interest to the Empire at large, such as commerce, defence, and immigration, subject to an imperial management in peace as well as in war. Lord Milner, in the course of an address before the Canadian Club of Montreal, in November, 1908, outlined his ultimate ideal for the British Empire as "a union in which the several states, each entirely independent in its separate affairs, should all co-operate for common purposes on the basis of absolute unqualified equality of status."

The widespread opposition to the idea of political, economic, and military federation is founded on the growing spirit of nationalism in Canada and her sister dominions. Canada is a colony essentially loyal and British, but passionately jealous of her liberties and thoroughly determined not to relinquish the least particle whatsoever of her autonomy. Even at the time of the decision of the Alaska boundary controversy in 1903, this determination to guard Canadian rights revealed itself. In the belief that her interests had been sacrificed by Britain, many newspapers