

den cabinet. Do you know that, in the eyes of the British law, because of the obstinacy with which the British government refuses to give us the right to make British subjects in Canada, Mr. Perley is today an American citizen? If he goes and represents us in the so-called Councils of the Empire, "loyal" Canada will be represented in England by an American citizen! The idea is, I presume, to give Mr. Perley a chance of becoming a British subject; but he must remain five years abroad; there must be no change of government here; because, if he comes back at the end of four years and eleven months, he is still an American citizen!

GOVERNMENT OF THE EMPIRE

These are limitations upon our action as a self-governing colony, upon our powers of legislation in our own country. If we go beyond that sphere, if we cross over the fence of our nursery, what do we find? That the British flag floats over a more extensive area of land than was ever gathered under one human power in any known period of history. We take pride in that. But with the government, the administration, the laws, the protection of those vast and numerous territories, containing 350 million souls, all British subjects, we Canadians have no more to say and no more to do than the Lascars of India or the Zulus of Matabeleland. They are under the exclusive control of two departments of the British government, at the head of which are a couple of gentlemen representing constituencies either of England, Scotland, Wales or Ireland,—not very often of Ireland. On the policy, right or wrong, applied to those numerous and extensive countries, any sweeper in the streets of Liverpool, any cab driver in London, may vote for or against the administration which governs those lands. We, the seven million people of Canada, cannot. We are as powerless as a babe in its mother's lap.

I have shown you the ludicrous position in which thousands of devoted Canadians of foreign birth can