

The Unity of the Empire, under existing conditions, can only be consummated by the Democracy; the dominant statesmen of the United Kingdom tacitly admit their indifference. In any case, it is with the Sovereign and with the people of the United Kingdom that Canadians feel a really vital relationship, and not with politicians whose controlling desire may be to obtain or to retain office on the parochial issues that usually divide their parliamentary parties.

It is sometimes suggested in the English press that Canada should state expressly what are her "demands;" but if Canadians should formally comply with that request they cannot "demand" less than is their birthright—the right to participate, through their responsible representatives, in the control and direction of the collective interests of the Empire of which they form a part—a right which is now lost to every British subject who leaves the United Kingdom to acquire a new domicile in Canada.

But what are the British people willing to concede; since, unless the British Democracy insists that reasonable concessions shall be made, the British politicians are evidently resolved to concede nothing, but information, forsooth, concerning their own pre-determined policies! But what are the British people willing to concede, in the way of constitutional participation in the direction and control of strictly Imperial affairs, to the present and future generations of their own kindred, who now or hereafter shall inhabit the over-seas Dominions?

The Dominions will now gratefully accept even meagre concessions, if, in themselves, these concessions constitute a promise and a pledge that equality of citizenship will eventually be established. But when the Dominions are deliberately told by the Prime Minister of England that "the authority of the Government of the United Kingdom in such grave matters as the conduct of foreign policy, the conclusion of treaties, the declaration and maintenance of peace, or the declaration of war, and, indeed, all those relations with foreign powers," etc., "cannot be shared" with the over-seas Dominions, then, if that declaration is to be accepted as an expression of the irrevocable decision of the British Democracy, there is but meagre hope of placing the Imperial connection on a satisfactory and permanent basis. The dissolution of the bonds of union, by such a decision of the British Democracy, either tacit or expressed, would be regarded in Canada, at least, as an irreparable injury that for many generations could not be forgotten nor forgiven.