

AN INDEPENDENT NATION ?

I do not doubt it more than I doubt my sincere allegiance to the constitution of my country and to my sovereign. But I do not doubt either that no power on earth will force me into submission against my will or against my conscience. Against my will I would be made a slave, never a subject. And the hour has passed in the life of nations, and that hour never came in this free continent of America, when free men could be forced into another people's allegiance. I know that it has been said and written both in this country and in ours that the effect of the McKinley tariff will so cramp the trade and finances of the people of Canada that we will be compelled to seek annexation to the United States. Well, sir, I know the feelings of our people, with whom I have lived in constant communion of sentiment during the thirty years of my political life, and I do not hesitate a moment to say that no consideration of finance or trade can have influence on the loyalty of the descendants of the races of whom I spoke to you in the opening of my address, or tend in the slightest degree to alienate their affections from their country, their institutions, their Government and their Queen. (Cheers.) If any one in this meeting believes that in refusing commercial intercourse to Canada Congress would undermine the loyal feelings of our people, he is labouring under a delusion and doing injustice to a people whose

SENTIMENT OF LOYALTY IS AS INDELIBLE

as your own, and I cannot do better than affirm, with more energy if it be possible, with Mr. Laurier what he affirmed the other day in Boston: 'If such a boon as freedom of trade were to be purchased by the slightest sacrifice of my nation's dignity, I would have none of it.' Let us rather cherish the idea, Sir, that those solemn and proud professions of dignity and courage will not be needed, but that the public men of both countries, echoing the sentiments of the two nations, will find a happy solution of those important problems. For my own part, I look to the future with hope and with security, with Andrew Carnegie. I would cheerfully set aside the scheme of Imperial Federation, the theory of an empire trade league, to see realized the grand idea of a race alliance of all the countries blessed with the noble and free political institutions which Great Britain has devised for the good of humanity, an alliance which would hasten the day when one power would be able to say to any nation that threatened to begin the murder of human beings in the name of war under any pretence:

'Hold, I command you both; the one that stirs makes me his foe.
Unfold to me the cause of quarrel and I will judge betwixt you.'

A Kriegsverein with power so overwhelming that its exercise would never be necessary."

"These are noble words from a noble heart and I endorse them with the same enthusiasm as I endorse your own countryman's conclusion. 'Fate has given to Britain a great progeny and a great past. Her future promises to be no less great and prolific; but, however numerous the children there can never be but one mother,