

But, that time, apparently, has passed, for Canada repudiates the name and the status of a Colony.

Constitutionally, I believe, there is no intermediate condition between the status of the self-governing Colony and that of the Nation. But assuming, for the purpose of meeting any contrary opinion, that there was a transitionary period when Canada, ceasing to be a Colony, was advancing to Nationhood. During that period I admit that the United Kingdom was under an obligation to co-operate with the embryo, or evolving nation in maintaining its necessary Naval defence; but the obligation was, secondary to that of the new Nation itself, and it should have relatively diminished as the adolescent nation became more and more self dependent. At best the transition was a semi-dependent condition, and if it ever existed, it exists no more, even in the opinion of Canada herself.

ON THE COLONY BASIS THERE IS NO BRITISH EMPIRE, nor is there any obligation on Great Britain to protect Canada. This is Canada's own decision, and let her be the supreme judge.

WHAT THEN IS CANADA, and how does she stand in the world of Nations? She is not Independent, nor does she aspire to Independence.

It is said she is a "*Nation within the Empire*." I believe the phrase is my own, framed several years ago, and used in some recent articles of this series, to indicate in contrast to the idea of National Independence, the greater and more glorious future that must await this Country by simultaneously attaining to Nationhood and co-operating with the Empire.

IS THERE THEN A BRITISH EMPIRE OF CO-ORDINATE NATIONS; AND IS CANADA ONE OF THESE NATIONS?

Canada's highest destiny would be within such an Empire. Great Britain has done all in her power to establish such an Empire. Canada has all the attributes of Nationhood except those powers and prerogatives which cannot be conferred until the responsibilities appertaining to them are fully recognized and undertaken by the Canadian people.

The British Empire can be formed and

consolidated by Canada, and the other self-governing States, undertaking those responsibilities.

If Canada had undertaken them voluntarily, she would not be in the humiliating and anomalous position she occupies to-day—a position analagous to that of the wayward son, who persistently asserted his independence, except in the matter of his means of subsistence, which he continued to permit the "Old Man" to provide for him as a matter of honour and glory, and as a memento of the otherwise repudiated paternal relationship.

If Canada undertakes her duties and responsibilities of Nationhood, and co-operates with the other Self-governing States, the British Empire will, so far as she is concerned, be formed; and she will be a Nation within the Empire.

The act and the choice must be her's alone.

The present deplorable predicament is the necessary and natural sequence of pusillanimous procrastination, and puerile prevarication on the part of the Leaders of Canadian thought in grappling with the problems of Canadian Nationhood—problems that for years have been rolling up accumulating complexities and dangers. These complexities and dangers were concealed from the people who were allured or deluded by the *Siren Song* of Wealth without responsibility, of Nationhood without the attribute of Nationhood, until the Country was well nigh within the talons of relentless destruction.

Now that the awakening has come, I am happy to think the *Vox Ducum*, the Voice of the Leaders, is not the *Vox Populi*, the Voice of the People.

The warning that the Naval Supremacy of Great Britain is menaced; that the Fate of the Empire is in the balance; and that the destiny of the self-governing States is at stake, has come with a strange simultaneousness—almost with a united voice—from Whig and Tory, from Liberal and Conservative, from Labourite and Socialist, from the Little Englander and the Greater Britainite. Who can doubt its authenticity when such men as Lord Rosebery, Frederic