

the expenses of legislation without in any way jeopardising the public interests. In Canada the British practice of voting supplies every year is of course one reason why the provincial assemblies meet every year, but that is a difficulty which can be removed by legislation. Another objection is the belief it would increase the chances of a weak government continuing in office since the people's representatives would have fewer opportunities of expressing their opinions and voting on questions affecting that government. This appears to be the objection which has heretofore prevailed against the adoption of a practice which is becoming general in the United States where it must be remembered, the people as a rule vote every year for their state officers including the governor, and the vote of parties does not depend on their strength in the legislatures.

The only evidences now of British sovereignty in the Dominion are the appointment of a Governor-General every five or six years; the disallowance at rare intervals of such Acts as conflict with Imperial legislation or Imperial treaties; the privilege which the people possess of appeal to the Privy Council from their own judicial tribunals; and the necessity that exists for conducting all commercial negotiations with foreign nations through the Imperial authorities. That Canada is no longer a burthen upon the Empire is clearly proved by recent events in her history. Whilst as a part of the Imperial dominions she must always have a claim to the support of England in case of foreign aggression, she is able to preserve peace within her own borders, even under extraordinary circumstances, as the record of the recent rising in the North West has abundantly shown. The presence of a few troops and men of war at Halifax is now the only perceptible evidence of British supremacy, that exists from Sydney to Victoria.

[Canada now occupies a position without a parallel in the past history of the world. Although still a dependency she has assumed the proportions of an Empire and can exercise many of the attributes of sovereignty. Whilst the head of the executive authority is still the Queen of Great Britain, who has delegated her powers to a Governor-General, whilst Canada still occupies a position of dependence with respect to treaties and other matters of a directly Imperial character, she models her commercial policy without reference to the parent state, appoints and dismisses lieutenant-governors, establishes new provinces in her territories, supports a large and efficient militia force on which she depends for domestic peace and security, and builds at her own expense public works of Imperial value. All this she has achieved within less than a