

referred. A little elementary political psychology at once betrays the error. Sentiment *qua* sentiment is merely a subjective feeling. In itself sentiment is wholly worthless for political and social aims. The only real value of sentiment consists in its vitalising effect upon reason and conduct. No human institution really begins to exist until it has emerged in some measure at least from the sentimental stage. We can no more form an Empire from sentiment alone than we can form a joint stock company or a hospital board from sentiment alone. No amount of mere desire or greed for gain can organise a merger and charity does not consist of drivelling tears of sympathy. Unless political sentiment emerges into political organisation and action it is worthless. A merely sentimental alliance is only an empty pretence. A sentimental alliance existing merely at will, and, therefore, binding to-day and not binding to-morrow, is simply not an alliance at all. Some form of binding agreement is the very first possible step in the formation even of an alliance; indeed, on our part we fail to see in what respect an alliance is any less binding than a constitution. To put the matter in a few words: there are only three alternatives open to an alliance founded on sentiment: it may continue to do nothing and to say nothing; it may find expression in constant verbal protestations of sympathy and patriotic gratitude, or it may find expression in some form of practical organisation. The first alternative has no real existence, except, perhaps, in the case of rejected lovers; the second is palaver; the third is the true path of nature and of duty.

There is one thing, however, we can do. We can stop the flow of tire-

some jingo Canadianism. The claim by the Colonies, for example, of political equality with Great Britain in the Empire of sister states, so often heard at Imperial Conferences, and admitted, indeed, in so kindly a way by the Motherland, is really most absurdly untrue to facts. Canada is but seven millions of people, Great Britain fifty millions; Canadian history is measured by decades, British history by centuries. Great Britain has never been behind the other nations in art, literature, science, and invention; Canada has not even one name of international reputation to offer to any of these essential departments of civilisation. Great Britain has been offering precedents in forms of law and government to the world for a thousand years; Canada, as yet, has shown no marked genius for originality in methods of government; indeed, as we have already said, even most of our local and private statute laws are copied almost verbatim from British legislation. Canada has no international status, Great Britain has laid the foundations of the greatest and freest Empire in history. Canada is contributing nothing to the work of Empire, Great Britain bears the whole burden. In view of these facts then, is it not clear that our present measure of privilege and freedom is abundantly adequate to our present importance? Until we really take part in the actual work of Empire we have no right to claim a voice in the councils of the Empire. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's luke-warm attitude towards this year's Conference, if true, would be entirely wholesome. The Canadian Government has nothing to offer and the old protestations of fidelity and gratitude to the Motherland are becoming rather tiresome. The time has come to do.

