

autonomy in domestic affairs to any power. But why should we lose autonomy or sound national spirit through Federation? Would we not have all the power we now possess, plus the power of sharing in the councils and responsibilities of world affairs, with a family of nations bound in the Federation? Would you claim, that the experience of the past two and one-half years, would show that living within the Empire, we are wanting in national spirit in Canada, in contrast to national spirit in the United States which is a great English-speaking community, without the Empire?

Under present conditions we have the obligations incident to domestic autonomy, but we have also obligations incident to membership in the Empire. The blood of our sons in France and Flanders, and the treasures expended, tell us how momentous are the decisions which lay these burdens upon us, yet concerning which, we have no voice or part in the circumstances leading up to the decisions.

You ask what sort of representation would we have: you say you consider we should be smothered by Great Britain and Ireland. But why say this? The representative body, be it a Parliament or a Council, would not be Great Britain's, but ours, and in the "ours" are Great Britain and Ireland and Canada, and Australia and New Zealand and South Africa, and who knows what others. Do we in Ontario, within this Dominion, say we will not be represented in Parliament at Ottawa, because we are in the minority? When our members go to Ottawa, they do not vote as men from Ontario; they divide and some join with one group from the other Provinces, and some with another group, and whichever of these groups preponderate in numbers, their opinion holds and governs. If we federate, we will not divide as to countries, but as to policies. Representatives from Canada would differ with one another as would representatives from the other Dominions and Great Britain. These would form combinations, and the determination of the majority would be defined by policy, not by country. Would we let this central Parliament or Council collect money from us? Why not? The Parliament or Council which would make the claim upon us would be ours. We must rid our minds of the idea, that the central Parliament or

