

the subject matter of my address — **The Future of Canada.**

CANADA'S POLITICAL FREEDOM.

A glance at the history of Canada will demonstrate the complexity of the problems we are about to consider. Unlike other countries, which are homogenous in their population, Canada and its problems must always be regarded from a dual ethnological viewpoint. Its discoverers, its pioneers, its colonizers, its apostles of Christianity and civilization were, as you know, French, and as a result of their efforts and the efforts of their descendants there has been woven into the web of our national life those distinctive French traits, which cannot now be eradicated, however much some people may wish it, without the destruction of the whole fabric.

The fate of war decided that after a period of over two centuries of glorious history the rule of France on the North American continent should cease and that Canada should pass under the British flag. The Battle of the Plains of Abraham, whilst it was hailed at the time and has ever since been almost exclusively regarded as a British victory, had a far deeper and more important significance than that. It, in reality, marked the seed of a new nationality in which men of both British and French ancestry were to be eventually united in a partnership for the achievement of a common aim — the establishment and upbuilding of a great Canadian Commonwealth or nation on the northern part of the American continent. It, as you know, took many years of incessant political struggle and strife before this was fully recognized and the great lines of Canadian nationality marked out.

You are all of course aware of the history of that struggle, which eventually resulted in Canadians achieving their political freedom and as a subsequent development their national autonomy. It has been, and still is, the custom of many writers as well as of numerous speakers in their post-prandial orations to dilate upon the