

always subscribed to the British Army, rather than equip soldiers of her own?

The last Conference was remarkable for many things, but for nothing in so great a degree as the conversion, not only of Australia but of the Admiralty itself to the Canadian idea (a). Some people, unaware of the result of Australian and other experience, still speak as though Canada ought to subscribe to the British Navy. But no one can help sympathizing with the view of Natal, for example, whose Premier spoke of her subscriptions as

"simply a cold lump sum voted on our estimates, for which we have no actual evidence as concerning the people we represent."

In this matter, as in all others, Canadian policy is co-operation and not incorporation—development of her own forces, military and naval, so that when the time comes she may be ready to co-operate with the other parts of the Empire in such wars as the Empire may undertake.

Summarizing what I have said, observe that

1. The road of our political development has not led us away from Monarchy nor from the British Sovereign;
2. It has led us to almost complete independence.
3. The termination of that road is not far off, and it is the Kingdom of Canada under the British Sovereign.
4. Probably we shall not turn from that road to join the United States.
5. Nor shall we become a Republic by ourselves.
6. Imperial Federation, either in the lump or by instalments, is impracticable and impossible.

It will be observed that although I have said that we are near the end of the road, I have not asserted that there is any general desire to hurry to its termination. We have little reason to complain of the usual course of our ordinary political life. But there is one feature of our relations to the Empire which is in a most unsatisfactory position and ought to be settled before it brings us embarrassment. I refer to the eventuality of war.

At present, in case of hostilities, we are under no legal or constitutional obligation to aid other parts of the Empire, and they are under none to help us. No Colony has any forces enrolled for overseas service, and Canada has no statute under which her men can be ordered out of Canada.

Further, Canada has no voice, is not even consulted, as to the propriety or necessity for war. It has been assumed that the making of peace and war shall be settled in London, and that the Colonies shall have nothing to do but fight when told to.

(a) Even "The Imperial Federation (Defence) Committee seems to have accepted the same idea: see "The Times", 23 November, 1907.