

evidence of Canadian loyalty to Britain which it represented. (Cheers.) Having taken this step it is but natural that we should consider what we have gained by it, and what are its possible future advantages.

BRITISH PREFERENCE AND ITS ADVANTAGES.

In answer to this inquiry I may state that the following advantages are evident:—

(1) We have quieted for the time being, and I hope forever, the restlessness which prevailed in many quarters as to the future of Canada. Without questioning the value of a republican form of government theoretically, it has been demonstrated beyond peradventure that under a monarchy it is possible to obtain as large a measure of freedom, both civil and religious, as under a republic. It has also been demonstrated that society is exposed to fewer dangers, commerce to fewer disturbances and capital to fewer risks by such a happy combination of a monarchy and democracy as prevails under the British system, than under the less restrained and more demagogic influence of a pure democracy. (Cheers.) The survey which Canadians were able to take of the British Empire and of the liberal institutions which the people were capable of establishing within its borders have convinced every colonist (and I include in these our own Canadian people) that the British constitution is liberal enough and elastic enough to meet all the necessities of citizenship of every rank and class, and strong enough to guard every right, moral and political, which arises from the ownership of property, the exercise of religious convictions or the requirements of social organization. I think I may state it as a fact that for these reasons Canadians as a whole are better satisfied with the form of government they now possess than they ever were before, and I may add, I see no reason why they should not be. (Applause).

(2) We have developed a greater feeling of confidence in ourselves, partly from the prominence given to Canada in the councils of the empire and partly from the respect paid to our wishes in Imperial matters. I have no sympathy with the pessimistic disposition of some Canadians to bewail our paltry population, our feebleness in men and money, and our tardy growth as compared with our neighbors to the south. A multitude of circumstances, which I cannot wait to discuss now, some of them political, some climatic and some geographical, have combined in producing a phenomenal growth of population and commerce in the United States. By some this growth is regarded as a menace to Canada, but even if so regarded, for which I see no reason, we can truly say that Canadians have now a more buoyant feeling as to the future, and that they are prepared to gird up their loins with a confidence never before so deeply felt in the inherent stability of their institutions and in the commercial and political possibilities of their own country. (Cheers).

For nearly one hundred years we have been disturbed by the evil genius of racial and religious jealousy—a jealousy which at various periods in our history threatened us with the direst consequences. When Canada was divided into two Provinces in 1791 it was supposed by British statesmen that the separation of the two races would promote harmony and peace in the Canadian colonies. The futility of this course was shown in the rebellion of 1837, both in Upper and Lower Canada. In 1841 a similar object was attempted by the union of the two Canadas, the purpose being to train the two races to respect each other by placing them under the necessity of jointly governing the country. Still dissension and racial antagonisms prevailed to an alarming extent. Then