

has been that the duty I had undertaken would be imperfectly executed if I failed in the essential fact of creating a record which would prove a safe guide for the future. The date to which I purpose to continue my labours is the time when the unlimited influence of the colonial office ceased to prevail. In 1841 Canada became a self-governing province as far as her municipal institutions are affected, her home policy in the future being determined by a ministry responsible to the vote of the legislature. Thus, the class of officials responsible in theory to the governor-general only, but depending greatly on the influence they could command in London, passed away from all active direction of our affairs.

It is important that we correctly know the working of this control exercised by the central home authority, which, if it did not impede, certainly did not advance the progress and prosperity of the province. There grew up in London a distrust of what was asked in the colony at variance with the theories there entertained of what was expedient. These home opinions were obstinately adhered to, not as a consequence of the colonial relation itself, but because colonial sentiment and its requirements were not understood.

No man of capacity in public life in Canada can at this hour suppose that what we may describe as imperial interests ought at any time to be unduly sacrificed to assure the weal of the dominion. On the other hand, it must be plainly understood by imperial statesmen, and by British office holders, many of whom cling to past traditions, that our just and fair claims are not to be set aside in subordination to the party exigencies of the ministry in power in England. Nor should these interests fail to claim consideration owing to the intervention of powerful influences, having the support of imperial officials from motives it is no use weighing or even examining. Any history of the past should clearly trace, as far as it is possible, the relations which existed in the period of our political tutelage, so that we may attribute the disturbing influences then experienced to the right causes, and draw the moral by which in future they may be avoided.

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