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To be read at a Meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, to be held at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, Whitehall Place, on Tuesday, May 8, at 8 P.M., the Right Hon. the MARQUIS OF LORNE, K.T., G.C.M.G., in the Chair.

CANADA IN RELATION TO THE UNITY OF
THE EMPIRE.

By the Hon. Sir CHARLES TUPPER, Bart., G.C.M.G., C.B.

THE most important event of recent years conducive to the unity of the British Empire was, in my opinion, the Confederation of Canada. Down to that period British North America was composed of five isolated provinces, and the great Rupert's Land was a howling wilderness, occupied by 25,000 savages, and the home of the buffalo. The provinces were separated by hostile tariffs, with no common interests and no means of inter-communication by railway. The Great North-West, declared by Lord Dufferin to be capable of providing happy homes for 40 millions of people, was separated from the older provinces by a thousand miles of wilderness and by the Rocky Mountains from the Province of British Columbia. All this has been changed. These isolated provinces, separated from the Republic to the south by an invisible line of from 3,000 to 4,000 miles in extent, have been united under one strong Federal Government, and bound together by a great trans-continental railway from Halifax on the Atlantic Ocean to Vancouver on the Pacific.

Another important event conducing to the unity of the Empire

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