

designed. In some instances it may have been misunderstood and misinterpreted ; in other instances it may have been strained to serve a purpose which it was not intended to serve ; but in no case can it be used as the instrument of oppression, except with the consent of those for whom it is administered. And if to-day every Canadian, whether on the platform or through the press or at the ballot-box, has perfect freedom of opinion, if no one can touch his pocket by taxation or his person by indictment, except with his consent, if the will of the majority for the time being is the obligation of all, it is because the constitution which we have framed by our own hands secures for us these priceless privileges.

As a Canadian I want that constitution, modified as the growing wants of the country may require, to be for us an abiding hope—a sure and steadfast anchor. I know of no privilege compatible with public morality which it does not permit me to enjoy. I know of no aspirations for the future of the country which it compels me to restrain, and I want my children and my children's children to cherish it as they would cherish the precious memories of their childhood and the hallowed associations of their home. (Cheers.) Using the words of "Fidelis," the gifted writer of Canadian verse, let us hope that

"In the long hereafter this Canada shall be
 The worthy heir of British power and British liberty ;
 Spreading the blessings of her sway to her remotest bounds,
 While with the honor of her name a continent resounds.
 True to her high traditions, to Britain's ancient glory
 Of hero and of martyr, alive in deathless story ;
 Strong in their liberty and truth, to shed from shore to shore
 A light among the nations till nations are no more."

Mr. Ross resumed his seat amid tumultuous applause.