

which at present does not engage the attention of the Canadian people. The sole tie which, at present, binds Canada to the Mother country is one of free will. But even that dependence will not always endure. Canada and Great Britain already have interests very different and a day will necessarily come when Canada and Great Britain must separate. When the hour of separation sounds may it be peaceful, harmonious and amicable as when a son leaves his father's house to become the head of a new family." When the interests of Canada and the interests of Great Britain conflicted and he had to choose between the two he would have no hesitation, added Sir Wilfrid, in standing for the interests of his native land. To any idea of an Imperial Federation the Liberal leader declared himself to be emphatically opposed." "There are people in the Dominion" he remarked, "who say that an Imperial Federation, that is to say, a federation between England and her colonies would be the best alternative for Canada. As far as the Monroe doctrine is applicable to Canada, I am in favor of the Monroe doctrine. I do not wish the interference of Europe in our affairs, and it would be suicide on the part of Canada to participate in a federation that would oblige her to take part in all wars, which Great Britain, as the result of its position, is constantly obliged to undertake in all parts of the world." *

Of course, as Sir Wilfrid Laurier remarked the independence of Canada was a problem that did not then engage the attention of the Canadian people. But marvellous changes, as you all know, have taken place since 1891, and the problem of Canada's future status is a much more live one now than it was then. It is of course needless to add that in 1891, neither Sir Wilfrid Laurier nor anyone else could foresee the likelihood of a world war and the consequent developments that such a war would bring about. In subsequent years Sir Wilfrid Laurier was

* Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Speech at Boston banquet, 1891. It was the speaker's privilege to accompany Sir Wilfrid Laurier to Boston on that occasion and to hear the inspiring address which he delivered to the large and distinguished gathering in the Vendome Hotel, presided over by Mr. Armand La-
londe.