

as every one of us does, that in case of difficulty we may be the great sufferers; hence when a people knowing the results that would follow to their homes, their families and their country, are willing to affirm their loyalty and readiness to assist in the defence of the Empire, and that too when the difficulties arise on questions which may not in any way affect their particular portion of the Empire, I think you must give them credit for sincerity in their devotion. We have one great hope and desire as Canadians—our statesmen have adopted it as a principle certainly during the last seventeen and a half years, not to be behind any portion of the world, and more particularly that portion of the American Continent not British. We see with regret that the means of communication between the old country and our own have been gradually falling into that state to which my friend Sir Donald Smith has alluded. I remember when I first crossed the ocean from Canada to England, the Allan Line of steamers was crowded with American tourists, because at that time it was the most comfortable. There are some five hundred miles of inland navigation before you strike the sea, and at that time the Allan Line was second to none on the ocean between England and the American Continent; but to-day we are in this position—almost everyone who desires to cross the Atlantic goes to New York. My friend Sir Donald Smith and I did the same thing the other day. What was the result—we left New York at 10.15 on the Saturday morning and at daylight next Saturday we were moored alongside the dock at Liverpool. When I went to Canada sixty-three years ago we had the pleasure of occupying just eight weeks and two days. I have been told by His Grace Archbishop Taché, who has spent a great portion of his life in the North-West, that he took six months in going from St. Paul and Minneapolis to Edmonton at the base of the Rocky Mountains. It takes six days now. That establishes the fact that we are advancing by means of science so rapidly that we need not be astonished at anything that may be accomplished by the ingenuity of man. When we talk of Imperial Federation and unity of the different sections of the Empire, I would remind you that older men used to look upon distance as insuperable. The United States extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific; it took at one time three or four or five weeks to get from the Capital to its western shore, and yet its people have formed themselves into one country. By means of electricity and steam the time is rapidly approaching when every acre of the world that is ruled by the Imperial authorities and under the British Crown will, by these means, be just as able to