

A prominent and distinguished son of Nova Scotia, a member of its judiciary, in a speech delivered a short time ago in the United States, referred to Canada's future in a way that has provoked much discussion and some criticism. To my mind Canada's future political state is a fair subject for public discussion, and I say this all the more readily because I believe the more the subject is discussed, the stronger will become the conviction that Canada's future and Canada's safety lie in the direction of a closer political alliance with the motherland. We are outgrowing, if we have not already outgrown, the colonial state, and in the future we must be prepared to take our fair share of the responsibilities for the defence of the empire on sea and land.

I am glad to be able to say that in the province from which I come, settled by the Loyalists and descendants of those Acadians, "who, from exile returning, wandered back to their native land to die in its shadows,"—a province which for many years has been under the protection of the British flag, and is the next-door neighbour of the United States—the strong overwhelming sentiment of the people, a sentiment which dominates all others in our political life, is in favour, not only of maintaining our British connection, but of drawing closer together by political and commercial ties, the silken bonds of affection and sentiment by which we are now united. In the march of political progress the maritime provinces must not stand still. Nearly a century and a quarter have passed since New Brunswick parted company from Nova Scotia and set up housekeeping for itself. It has advanced, as Nova Scotia has, but would not the advance in both provinces be more rapid and the progress greater if, in the councils of the Dominion, the lower provinces could speak as one province and with one united voice?

With the rapidly increasing population of the western provinces, the representation of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island in the federal parliament will be reduced to an extent that we cannot at present estimate; and we will not be worthy of those who have gone before us and who have laid broad and deep the foundations of Canada's greatness, unless we sink all our political differences and