

Empire; and if there should be other difficulties which require removal, we can by such conferences meet our fellow Colonists and the members of the Privy Council and settle them in a friendly way. I shall be glad if a number of questions to which I will refer presently, but very briefly, should come before an early conference of Colonial delegates, perhaps during the Coronation year, and that some of these questions, in which Canada is interested, should be carefully considered. I may, therefore, be regarded as having committed myself to regular consultative conferences, held as often as the Imperial authorities consider necessary, and I can assure you that to such conferences we will send our best men, and in the deliberations give our best opinion. If the Empire is to be autonomous, there should be a feeling of unity throughout its different parts. Canada has the sentiment of unity to a degree that the most ardent Imperialist can desire. We have given substantial proof of that—(hear, hear)—but, apart from the evidence we have given, it is deep down in the heart of every Canadian that the future prosperity of Canada depends on the present relations with the Empire, and a closer alliance if possible. We have outgrown feelings of restlessness. Those who believed in independence have reached the vanishing point; those who believed in annexation are hardly ever heard from now. They have given up all discussion of that question, and there is in Canada now—and his lordship will bear testimony to that from his residence of four or five years among us—but one feeling of honest, sincere loyalty to His Majesty and loyalty to the Empire and to the interests of the Empire in all its magnitude and extent.

At the same time we feel, looking at the question as one of unification, that matters, some minor, some major, are worthy of consideration. If you are to have a unified Empire you ought to have a unified commercial nomenclature and terminology at all sources of commercial contact. A uniform currency for the Empire would be a great convenience. (Hear, hear.) It would be convenient for us if in our commercial transactions all over the Empire our own currency were adopted. That might be an immediate inconvenience for the Empire. I do not say that our system should be forced on you, but if the decimal system were adopted it would be a convenience in business transactions, and a decimal system of weights and measures would also facilitate business. When we come to