

explicit basis and understanding that the federation of all the provinces was accomplished. It was also in accordance with that understanding that George Etienne Cartier's famous Militia Act of 1868, the basis of our whole military organization was framed. The recognized Canadian policy, promulgated by Cartier and other Canadian statesmen at the time was to provide a purely defensive force, in other words the safety of the national structure was to be assured by a real national policy or system of defence, without the slightest idea of fostering a spirit of militarism, involving an enormous national expenditure. In other words the strengthening of the Dominion and its adequate defence were the sole objects in view. Never did it enter the mind of any of the Canadian statesmen of the time that Canadian troops should be employed in wars outside of Canadian territory or for any other purpose than the defence of the Dominion. Such an idea would, in fact, have been regarded by the framers of Confederation as a direct and clear violation of the agreement reached with the Imperial authorities by which, as we have seen, the British Government undertook to look after the naval defence of the Dominion against external aggression on condition that the Dominion would attend to the defence of its own territory. This understanding as we shall later see, was invariably maintained by the great Canadian statesmen who played a leading part in the founding of the Dominion.

It will thus be seen, from what I have said, that the basic principles of Confederation in brief compass were:—

British connection, coincident only with the complete autonomy of the Dominion.

Autonomous status of the Dominion with the idea of Canada having the complete entire and independent management of its own affairs, and ultimately full national status in friendly alliance at the same time with Great Britain and other nations.

Naval defence of the Dominion against external aggression to be provided by Great Britain.