

wards became among the most loyal subjects of the empire and proved their allegiance to their Queen and country on more than one occasion.

Passing on I find the next great movement looking towards the disruption of Britain's colonies in North America and their separation from the motherland began in 1886 and continued until 1896.

The movement at that time took the more plausible guise of commercial union, unrestricted reciprocity, continental free trade, and other notions of that kind. But with the acquisition of office by the gentlemen engineering this movement—these movements, rather, for they were as varied as the weather—all these agitations disappeared; and now we find the leaders of these movements occupying the first places in the hearts of the people of the country, high in the estimation of their sovereign, labelled G.C.M.G., K.C.M.G., and all that sort of thing—showing what transformation scenes can be worked in the drama of the empire's life.

Many believe that during the Boer war there was another critical period in the history of Canada's connection with the motherland. That war was undoubtedly the result of a conspiracy on the part of nations of the earth to disrupt the empire. But, when the time for action came they hesitated. Britain had a record for war, and the nations did not care to incur her anger. As I have pointed out, their idea was that the war would lead to the loss of South Africa, and this to the loss of India, and so to the breaking up of the empire and the encroachment of other nations upon British territory. We find that at that time Canada hesitated to do her part in having troops go to the assistance of the empire. But, after due consideration the First Minister himself gracefully yielded, and the troops left Canadian shores and took service in South Africa.

At intervals during the past few years, there has been a spasmodic agitation looking to the severance of the ties that bind us to the motherland. For instance there is

The agitation in favour of Canada making her own treaties.

The agitation in favour of building up our navy.

The agitation in favour of cutting off appeals from Canadian courts to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The agitation in favour of having no imperial general officer commanding in Canada.

And, Sir, the endeavour was made, as far as possible, to create prejudice throughout the length and breadth of Canada against Great Britain and her judicial tribunals because of the decision in relation to the Alaskan boundary. I have regretted that this matter was not brought up in the House, for then an opportunity would have been afforded to remove some of the prejudices created by the press of this country—not alone by the press of one party, I am sorry to say, but by a large portion of the press of both parties, carried away by misapprehension as to the true state of affairs.

Another agitation was the endeavour to create sympathy for the Boers in the war.

And another of these agitations, strange to say, was for the removal of the Union Jack from the parliament buildings. The question has been asked in this House, by what authority the grand old Union Jack was flying over the parliament buildings of Canada.

This shows the extremes to which some gentlemen will go.

Then, many of us are a little surprised that there should be such an endeavour on the part of the Department of the Interior to bring in immigrants of outside nationalities to our shores. I am not finding fault with the movement to promote immigration. But, so far as I have been able to go, I have endeavored to agitate in favour of bringing in British and American immigrants rather than those of other nations. Many have been surprised to see the large number of foreign immigrants, for it will undoubtedly be three or four generations before the descendants of these people become real Canadians and good British subjects.

Many have regarded with more or less suspicion the argument in favour of not permitting Canadians to serve the empire under arms beyond the bounds of Canada. We watch these things with more or less surprise and suspicion.

The latest movement of this kind is that of Canada securing from the imperial government control of the two naval stations, Halifax and Esquimalt. I shall not discuss that subject at length, but only say that I do not endorse it, as I am satisfied that it does not tend in the direction of upbuilding the empire and strengthening Canada's connection with the motherland. In 1871, when Britain partially withdrew her forces from the continent of North America, she handed over to Canada munitions of war valued at \$4,350,000 as a present. She has also handed over 11,718 acres of land situated in strategic and central positions throughout the length and breadth of the country. Now, Britain seems to have handed over her remaining stations on this continent, Halifax and Esquimalt.

This I say, I regret. I shall quote again staunch old Joseph Howe, to show that away