

question arises, which specially touches Canadian interests, the Dominion Government has its say as representing the Canadian people, and Canadian delegates have been present at international conferences. The fact, therefore, that the foreign policy of the empire is left in charge of the Imperial Foreign Office, does not vitiate the conclusion that Canada is substantially governed by the Dominion Parliament, not by the Government of Great Britain ; but, inasmuch as foreign policy is ordinarily left to the mother country, and as the sanction of that policy lies in the strength of the British fleet, the colonies, whose relations to foreign countries are determined by the policy, and who are safe-guarded by the fleet, *are really in the position of independent but protected States.* In a word the British empire may be said to consist, partly of dependencies, which are not colonies, such as India ; partly of dependencies which are colonies, such as Barbados or the Bermudas ; *partly of colonies such as Canada, which are not dependencies but protected States."*

If it be asked just here what diplomatic machinery has Canada for the purpose of negotiating treaties with foreign powers, we answer : Is there any good reason why she should not act through the appropriate existing Imperial channels? It is the power to make the treaty that constitutes her independence of action, not the agency through which that power is exercised.

This statement of what we conceive to be the true status of Canada to-day is merely prefatory to the following observations on a present desirable expansion of our national domain.

It is obvious to the casual observer who glances at the map that our Atlantic sea-board sadly needs to be rounded out by the inclusion of the island of Newfoundland and its appendant *lisière* along the Labrador peninsula. Even if these portions of territory lacked the splendid resources of mine, forest and fishery with which they are endowed, the commercial and strategic value of their ports and harbours would justify every effort being put forth to build them into the fabric of the Dominion. Sir John Macdonald once declared with all the shrewdness and foresight of the true nation-builder that he was, that Newfoundland, from a war point of view, was the "sentinel of the St. Lawrence ;" and when we remember that she is separated from Ireland only by a distance of a little