

in 1939. They did the same thing at the same time for the same reasons. It is not a tariff union although trade preferences on a moderate basis remain in the Commonwealth as is appropriate in a family. It has no single citizenship for each member state has the right to control such matters. It is made up of diverse races, faiths and tongues. It has not even a common form of government although the British parliamentary system has been the accepted prototype. But all its citizens wherever they live have one supreme thing in common, they are all subjects of one King. Lord Balfour's famous phrase is profoundly important. He said, you will recall, that we were "united by a common allegiance to the Crown". That is not just a fine phrase. For through the Crown with all it implies the Commonwealth finds its real unity, and its peoples gain their feeling of community, of kinship. The Crown gives us a sense of continuity for it represents the growth of a thousand years. It gives us stability too for at the apex of our constitution it stands above all controversy and represents all parties, all classes, all elements in the community. The Crown to us is the very symbol of freedom and tolerance, it represents our way of life. Without the Crown the Commonwealth as a sisterhood of nations would cease to exist because the essential link would have gone.

I am sure there are countless people in many places who would agree that the Commonwealth is an invaluable factor in the world today. They are sometimes less certain about the colonial Empire as distinct from the group of self-governing nations. May I say just a word about that. Empire as a term has an eighteenth century ring about it. The word colony conjures up the image of George III. But it is helpful to remember that the demise of George III took place a long time ago and that much has happened since. Words after all are only labels. In the 40 odd communities which comprises the colonial Empire there is a steady movement towards self-government, accelerated since the war, which makes nonsense of the word imperialism so ardently employed in Moscow. The facts speak for themselves. Constitutional progress and advance in individual welfare in the colonial Empire today make it one of the strongest bulwarks in the world against the menace of Communism.

There has been a movement of late among certain Latin American countries to challenge the continued existence of colonies, most of them British, in Central and South America. May I say this: Two of the most important tests one can apply to a community are how far is public order maintained and individual liberty protected. If these tests are applied to the colonies in question it will be found that they are in very favourable contrast with some of the countries which ask for their extinction and in which political freedom is not yet assured.

Today the word freedom is often on our lips. It provides the background to much of our thinking. It is no academic term as it may have seemed in earlier years when we thought that human progress was automatic. Freedom is a practical business - something to be fought for. It is an urgent matter too, for in some parts of the world today, in the continent of Asia for example, liberty is now in retreat. A nation must now be judged by a triple test - by its belief in freedom, by its practice of freedom, by its willingness to defend freedom. You understand these things in this great country, for you have stood for liberty since the beginning. Without you today the world would have little hope. The belief in freedom is also the very foundation of the British Commonwealth and Empire. As far as Canada is concerned we have willingly made our own contribution to this cause in the past. As a Canadian, I am proud that my country is prepared to play its part today.

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