

character, and show how necessary it is for our statesmen and publicists to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the rules and principles that govern communities in their dealings with one another. Though Canada is still a dependent state, yet her importance entitles her, as her recent history will show you, to be consulted and represented on every occasion when her interests are immediately affected by a proposed treaty. Consequently, every year that passes gives greater scope to the abilities and learning of her public men. The relations of Canada to other peoples, and especially to aliens who are domiciled or were temporary residents in the country, and the necessity of observing the great moral elements that lie at the basis of international law—the duties of humanity, comity and intercourse—entail responsibilities on our people which must be enlarged with the increase of the wealth and population of the Dominion.

Some of you who now hear my words may see the relations between the parent state and its different dependencies undergo a very important change, which may give our statesmen a direct and larger influence on the destinies of the whole Empire—when a Canadian will have as potent a voice on imperial affairs as a dweller in Kent or Devon. Higher conditions of national existence must be in store for a country like Canada, which has expanded so remarkably in political greatness within a few decades. It may be that the Imperial Federalists will eventually find a solution of the great problem they are busy with in Great Britain and its dependencies, and Canadians will become citizens of the Empire in reality, and as such able to negotiate directly with foreign nations. But in any case, as things are now, Canadians must necessarily find it to their advantage, whether lawyers or politicians or ordinary citizens, to learn something of that public law which governs the relations of sovereign peoples with one another throughout the civilized world.

Political Economy is another of those useful studies which are naturally allied with others on this wide domain. Look around us, and do we not see how important it is for Canadians to understand the principles or doctrines which have been laid down by men like Adam Smith, Ricardo, Mill, Carey, and others I need not mention here, who have devoted their lives in Europe and America to a branch of science so fruitful of discussion, and so intimately connected with the industrial and commercial development and the material prosperity and social comforts of a people? Every year that passes sees questions connected with the health, and the improvement of the condition of the labouring classes demanding the consideration of our legislatures. Only last session of parliament we had laid on the table a number of bulky volumes representing the work of a commission appointed by the Dominion Government to enquire into subjects of deep interest to labour. Or, when I refer to the fact that we have a "national policy" which is practically a system of protection, I show you as Canadians how important it is to understand the principles which recommend it to so large a body of people in the Dominion, in preference to the principles of the opposing party who would have a system of indirect taxation for revenue and would give a fuller expansion to free trade with other peoples. With this study are intimately allied the questions of unrestricted reciprocity and commercial union, which are of an economic character, requiring a large knowledge of the economic conditions of Canada, and of the United States, and a thorough understanding of the sound principles which should guide us in our international relations. An accurate knowledge of statistics which are now a recognized branch of economic science,