

Further, he said:

We will become a great nation. There has been a feeling that because the old colonies were lost by the misrule of the British Government, every colony must be lost when it assumes the reins of self-government. He believed to the contrary and that England would hold her position in every colony; she will not enforce an unwilling obedience by her arms.

In answer to the idea that has been promulgated in season and out of season by members on the other side of the House and in the Conservative press, that because Canada, with the aspirations of a nation, desires to have a navy of her own for the protection of her own coasts and for the assistance of the Empire if need should arise; we are separatists and disloyal subjects of His Majesty, and have for our aim, separation from Great Britain, I commend to the attention of the House and the country the words of Sir John A. Macdonald, that Imperialist of Imperialists. His idea was that we should have a Canadian navy, that we should be independent and yet loyal to the British Throne and to the British Sovereign. If these be the views of Sir John Macdonald and his colleagues, am I presuming too much when I bring them to the notice of the country, in answer to the slander that our naval policy is a separatist policy. Sir John Macdonald speaking at Halifax said:

I will feel that on the other hand I shall not have served in public life without reward, if before I enter into private life I am a subject of a great British-American nation under the Government of Her Majesty and in connection with the Empire of Great Britain and Ireland.

Are not these ideas pronounced by Sir John Macdonald in harmony with the policy which had been expounded so ably and with such faithfulness and fidelity by my right hon. friend and leader Sir Wilfrid Laurier? Is it not true that in this naval policy of ours, which has been accepted throughout the length and breadth of Canada by Liberals everywhere, and by a great many Conservatives, we are adopting the policy that was clearly believed in by Sir John Macdonald, and advocated by him as the course to be pursued by this young nation when once it was launched as a confederation? Let me, Sir, call your attention to the utterances of that great French-Canadian statesman and patriot, Sir George Etienne Cartier. At Charlottetown he said, in part:

The delegates met to inquire whether it was possible for the provinces from this present fragmentary and isolated material to form a nation or kingdom. He deemed it essentially necessary that these national fragments and resources of all the provinces

should be concentrated and combined in order that they in their trade, intelligence and national power and prosperity, might be rated as at least the fourth nation in the world.

At Halifax on September 12, he said:

The object and great question of the conference is if there cannot be any means devised by which the great national fragments comprised in each of the British-American provinces, could be brought together and made into a great nation.

Further, Sir George Cartier said:

Canada had the personal and territorial element—

And by Canada he meant Upper and Lower Canada as contra-distinguished from the maritime provinces.

We want the other element which is absolutely necessary to make a nation; that is the maritime element. What nation, he asked, on earth, has obtained any kind of greatness unless it has been united with the maritime element.

And he went on to picture the situation of these respective provinces, describing the provinces by the sea as a mere strip of seashore which should be united with upper and lower Canada and which, together with them, one affording the maritime and the other the inland territory, would make a great nation of which the Motherland would be proud. He said:

The difficulties were susceptible of solution if managed with wisdom. All that is requisite to overcome difficulties is a strong will and a good heart.

I commend the words of that great patriot Sir George Etienne Cartier to my hon. friends opposite. They are timid in the face of the difficulties of creating a Canadian navy; they falter at the idea of there being Canadians who will man the ships of the Canadian navy; they doubt that we can build the ships; and they say: Give of our substance in cold cash to Britain the Motherland, buy her to do our fighting upon the seas, and do not undertake to overcome obstacles. And yet, at the very dawn of Confederation, we had a gladiator who stood before the people and said:

All that is requisite to overcome difficulties is a strong will and good heart.

I would fain hope that hon. gentlemen opposite would become possessed of that strong will and good heart that Sir George Etienne Cartier referred to. Further, Sir George Cartier said:

When I think of the nationality that can be formed if we could but bring the provinces under one federal Government, it seems to me that I see before me, and I am now speaking by a sort of metaphor, a great British-American nation, with the fair maritime provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as the arms of the national body