

these permits makes the export of wheat impracticable. A single route by the St. Lawrence, even in the summer, is too precarious. The explosion in the elevators at Port Colborne brought into prominence the necessity of an exit by Buffalo. The Treaty of Washington may permit us to enter, and clear, without duty. It does not compel American railways to carry our goods. Upon this flimsy fabric our sea commerce is based.

A nation without a sea-base depends for existence upon itself alone or upon the sufferance of its neighbour through whose territory it must pass for access to the world, in search of such supplies as are necessary for its existence. It must also have an outlet for its own surplus with which imports are to be paid. Forty years ago Canada had a dim perception of this truth, and inaugurated a policy of self-sufficiency which to that extent deserved the name of "national." That policy has failed. It was never thoroughly tried, or rather it was nullified by a contrary policy of manufacturing for export. Imports increase, and now in despair we have abandoned the home market, and are supplying Greece and Rumania upon our own credit. Two contrary policies at the same moment cannot succeed.

Canada also is governed by Geography through the relentless instrument of climate. The keeper of a lighthouse in the Newfoundland Labrador may continue for a time to clothe his women in flimsy fabrics from a Toronto department store. When the supply ship fails, he and his family will revert to the practices of the people amongst whom he lives, or they will perish from cold and hunger. No city in Canada could endure for a month if its coal supply from the United States were cut off. This supply is not automatic. It is subject to embargo. A nation's first duty is to itself. Ambitious young nationalists would do well to reflect upon these things, else they may find themselves with a nation—without a people.

Two courses are open. We may content ourselves with such sea-bases as we have, and direct our life accordingly. We may endeavour by persuasion, or by force, to secure