

to a star rising in the west. Permit me to say that it will be more than a star, it will be a constellation in which each brilliant star shall contribute to the splendour of all.

The division of the Northwest Territories into provinces of the confederation constitutes an important chapter in the history of Canada.

There was a time when it was thought by many—and, I must admit, by myself—that the annexation of those territories to Canada was premature, that the old provinces should retain for their own benefit all their revenue, their customs and excise duties. Of course, it was to be expected that the young provinces would be very jealous of their natural progress, but the older statesmen, Conservative and Liberal alike, were probably wiser than some of us when they decided that the development of the Northwest would build up the whole country, and they spared nothing to attain that end. While we must admit that these provinces have cost us very many millions of dollars, we are proud of the result. We do not regret what we have done. We are proud of the sacrifice which we have made for those provinces; we are proud of them, proud of their products, and proud of their men. Everything which comes from British Columbia and the Northwest is strong and solid. But in order that those elements of progress and of prosperity and those sacrifices which we have made may make our country greater, many conditions are necessary.

Firstly, the government should in the political organization of those provinces remove all causes of friction, of national and religious discontent.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DAVID—The winds which blow from the northwest are violent, and sometimes they bring storms which more than once have shaken the foundations of confederation. Experience is a lesson and a source of wisdom for statesmen.

Secondly, the different provinces of confederation should be united by the cement of self-help and protection, and should always be prepared to do whatever is necessary for their individual development and for the progress and prosperity of each of them. Therefore, if we make such great sacrifices for the Northwest, if we direct towards that

part of Canada a flood of immigration, and if we construct for them railways destined to carry their natural products to all the markets of the world, they must in return do for the old provinces what is necessary to put them in a position to supply them with the manufactured products. Otherwise, what will be the effect of all our efforts and of those sacrifices that we have made to increase their population? The only effect will be to provide a market for the manufactures of our neighbours in the United States. After all, we have the lessons of history before us, it is as true to-day as it has been in the past, that a patriotic policy is the most beneficial to a country, much better than a policy of selfish sectionalism. The strong nations are those in which each man, each society, each city, each province, is always prepared to make sacrifices for the general interests of the country.

Thirdly, I may add that in order to promote the moral and material development of the provinces and place them in a position to meet the pressing needs of colonization and education, the Dominion government should readjust the federal subsidies and increase them. There is no doubt that these subsidies were based upon erroneous hypothesis and inaccurate calculations, and that as years roll on the disproportion between the customs and excise duties ceded by the provinces and what they receive as compensation becomes more evident and striking. Notwithstanding the fact that the customs and excise duties are being tripled, quadrupled, and that the population is constantly increasing, the compensation remains the same, and while surpluses are accumulating into the federal treasury the provinces are unable to carry out works most urgently required for their material advancement. They recall to my mind Lazarus suffering at the door of the rich man, and as Lazarus, they would content themselves with the crumbs which fall from the federal treasury. It must be remembered that by helping the provinces to increase their population the Dominion authorities would take back with one hand what they would give with the other, for it is the federal government who would chiefly profit by such increase.

Lastly, not only the provinces should be patriotic and seek to harmonize their private interests with the general interests