

potentiaaries, if we may dignify them with that title. The assent of the Colonial office was practically given to the conclusions they arrived at. The treaty with Japan some sessions ago was subject to our ratification, as far as it affected Canada. In all these respects, Canada has attained not absolute independence—that we do not seek, we have not reached that stage, if we ever shall—but she has attained a practical independence so far as treaties are concerned, and so far as our relations with other countries are concerned. We were in a position to negotiate the treaty with the United States, if the United States were favourable. We have negotiated a treaty with France, ratified the treaty with Japan, and what more could we do if we were a nation? In that connection I would like to refer to a statement by President Taft at the Champlain celebration last summer. He said:

We have been going ahead so rapidly in our own country that our heads have been somewhat swollen with the idea that we were carrying on our shoulders all the progress there was in the world. But that is not true, as you will realize when you think for a moment. We have not been as fully conscious as we ought to be, that there is to the north of us, with a border-line between it and us 5,000 miles long, a young country, a young nation that is looking forward, as well it may, to a great national future. They have 7,000,000 people, but the country is still hardly scratched; it is still undeveloped. They have two great strains of blood in them, French and English. They are under a government abroad, to which both strains acknowledge full loyalty, which has exhibited great wisdom in its treatment of the Dominion and giving to the Dominion practical and almost complete autonomy.

He says 'practical autonomy' and almost 'complete autonomy.' That is the estimate of the President of the United States as to our status. A young 'nation,' a young country, with practical and almost complete autonomy. We accept this compliment from the President of the United States. It is pleasing to our self-respect. It adds somewhat to our importance. It makes us feel that in the great galaxy of nations, as Sir Wilfrid Laurier once characterized the colonies, we bear no unimportant part. My argument leads to one conclusion: If it be true that we are a nation—and that was the goal of confederation—then we ought to accept the responsibilities of a nation. You

will remember in the opening address of Lord Monk when the delegates assembled here to ratify the Quebec resolutions, he referred to the resolutions as the making of a new nation, and those of us who are familiar—no doubt hon. gentlemen all are—with the speeches delivered on that occasion, remember when the Hon. George Brown and Sir John A. Macdonald emphasized the point that in making confederation—and it was only then four provinces—that we were making a nation. If four provinces with three million population constituted a nation in their opinion, how much greater the truthfulness and applicability of that reference to a country now with a greater area than that of the United States and with a population of seven millions? If we are a nation, we must assume the responsibilities of a nation, and here let me quote a speech delivered by Sir John A. Macdonald, the last address delivered by him in England, on the 4th of January, 1886, reported in the London 'Times', where he says:

The population of Canada was now five millions, but in twenty years—a mere speck of time in the history of a nation—they might calculate that it would be ten millions. With regard to the question of imperial federation, he fully believed that as the auxiliary nations of Australia, and Canada, and South Africa increased, the present relations, comfortable and pleasant as they were, could not remain permanently fixed. As those auxiliary nations must increase in wealth and in population, so they must increase in responsibilities.

He thought Canada was a nation then. He foresaw what would be the result of the inevitable increase in population and the development of our natural resources. He gives my argument: Speaking for the Dominion of Canada he could say they were ready to increase the responsibility. They were ready to join the mother country in her offensive and defensive league. He assumed then as a matter of course that with the growth of the country came increased responsibility, and that we must assume the responsibility also as a matter of course. A speech almost in similar terms was made by the present Minister of Militia at a banquet in London, from which I will not now quote, during the naval conference in England last year.