

what a potential source of wealth these water powers are and what an important part they are destined to play in the industrial development of the future.

Canadian foreign trade has doubled within a few years and now exceeds four hundred million dollars per annum. The trade for the quarter ending on 30th September last was \$133,758,124. He would be a rash man indeed who would place any limits to Canadian development.

Not many years will elapse before the population of Canada will exceed that of England, now the predominant partner in the British Empire.

FEDERATION OF THE EMPIRE.

The fears and hopes that the grant to Canada of local self-government and the formation of the Canadian Confederation would lead to the severance of the ties binding Canada to Great Britain have both proved quite unfounded. Similarly the formation of the Australian Commonwealth should be properly regarded as an important step in the direction of the consolidation, not of the disintegration of the British Empire.

The Federal principle so successfully applied in Canada and Australia will, there is good ground for hoping, be also successfully applied in South Africa. Having the ground so far prepared, we should now strive for the supreme, the Imperial Confederacy of the United Nations of Greater Britain.

There is a growing feeling that Canada ought to bear her fair share of the burden of Imperial defence. Canadian shipping and interests abroad are now defended by the British navy at the expense of the taxpayers of England, Scotland and Ireland.

In the Behring Sea matter, for instance, the seizure of Canadian ships was prevented solely by the presence of British ships of war in the Pacific.

The United Kingdom paid the expense, Canada received the benefit.

Ordinary self-respect will prevent Canadians allowing this state of affairs to continue permanently, especially as according to Sir Robert Giffin, the eminent statistician, the wealth of Canada is \$240 per capita, while that of England is \$210 per capita. The wealth of the United States, by the way, was estimated at \$175 per capita.

While Canadians are willing to pay what is right towards the defence of their interests, yet it must be done in a proper way and under sufficient safeguards. Canada has now no voice in the control of the navy, and the principle that among free men there can be no taxation without representation is too fundamental to be tampered with. As Sir Wilfrid Laurier said to the people of Great Britain, if you want us to help you call us to your Councils.

At the last session of the Dominion Parliament some provision was made for making the Canadian militia more efficient and effective. This was done with general approval and is a step in the right direction.

It is, however, only a step and cannot be regarded as a permanent solution of the question.

In passing I may point out that even if Canada contributed her full proportion according to population to the defence of the Empire our payment