

which govern Canada govern the whole world. They control its commerce, compose its armies and its navies, legislate for its millions in popular assemblies of varied kinds, and there is none to question their behests or challenge their supremacy. And are we to suppose that, having demonstrated their power by centuries of achievement, having tounded and colonized empires, they would drop from their nerveless grasp the sceptre of conquest when they touch our shores, and content themselves with a future of idleness and obscurity? Nay, verily. (Cheers.) Then what have we to fear!

I have confidence in the future of Canada because our constitution is so elastic as to permit the fullest expression of the popular will. It is a happy combination of the diffusion of power and central control. As an instance of diffusion, we have in Ontario alone about 6,000 limited monarchies in the form of school boards; we have 900 limited monarchies in the form of municipal corporations; we have 45 limited monarchies in the form of County Councils; we have 7 limited monarchies in the form of Provincial Governments; we have 1 limited monarchy, which we fondly call the Dominion of Canada; and over all presides Her Majesty—the embodiment of the best limited monarchy which the world ever possessed. This constitution, with its multiplex adaptations, is our own creation. On the one hand, it represents the idea of local control to the very verge of socialism; on the other hand, that concentration of power essential to the solidarity of national interests. For 27 years we have tested its adaptability to our various political necessities, and no one can say that it has failed to serve the purpose for which it was