

procuity would open for us an area of wealth and prosperity, would England dare to bring down her arm upon us in order to kill that possible prosperity? There was a time when England would have come down with a strong hand upon any such arrangement; that was the time when the notion was prevalent in England that colonies existed simply for the benefit of the parent state; that was the time when colonies were not allowed any trade except what was graciously conceded by the parent state; that was the time when, if the trade of the parent state came in collision with the trade of the colony, the trade of the colony must give way. But, Sir, that selfish policy pursued for generations by the parent state towards her American colonies, cost to England during the last century, the loss of her American colonies. For years and years, no, at all times the American colonies had been prohibited from exporting sugar, cotton, furs, to any country but to a country acknowledging the British flag. At all times, the colonies had been prohibited from exporting manufactured goods, such as wool to any country, not even from colony to colony. At all times, they had been prohibited from erecting iron furnaces; and all these prohibitions were made to benefit the trade of England. They benefited indeed the trade of England, but they alienated the heart of the American colonists, and when a struggle arose

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back before the universal discontent created by this selfishness. Now, Sir, even in the days of that conflict, there were men in England with hearts broad enough, and minds broad enough, to protest against that selfish policy. Charles James Fox in those very days declared in England, that the only manner in which the parent state could keep distant colonies was to allow them absolute freedom in matters respecting their own Government. In our own day, and in this country, that doctrine was applied to its fullest extent. Canada has the honour of having revolutionized the doctrines which formerly bound colonies to the parent state. We have been granted freedom of Government in this country, and we have been allowed to settle our own interests in the light of our best judgment. And now, Sir, I ask, and this is a question which I want to have answered by hon. gentlemen opposite: Is there any restriction in this right that has been granted to us? To what length is the right to extend? Would it extend even to the point where Canadian interests would come in conflict with British interests, and even invade British interest? Sir, I say that the only limit to Canada's right is Canada's interests. So far as goes Canada's interests, so far goes Canada's right; and the doctrine which I assert now has been asserted by all colonial Governments, except the Government in front of us. This doctrine has been granted by the Imperial Government, not once, or not twice, but it is

NOW THE SETTLED COMMON LAW

of the colonies. The concession was not made spontaneously but it was wrung from the mother land by the very force of circumstances and events. Since Canada has been granted freedom of Government the