

mit British manufactures free. The people of Great Britain will not consent to have their food taxed. The abandonment of food tax as proposed by the Unionists is significant.

Since the establishment of self-government some seventy years ago, the progress of Canada has been as satisfactory as that of any country in the world; satisfactory whether you consider it from the Canadian or from the British point of view. The Empire can grow strong only as its parts grow strong. Nevertheless, there has always been a timid and reactionary class which feared and resisted the growth of Canada, and regarded every step in self-reliance as a movement toward separation. It opposed responsible government bitterly until the logic of facts showed that the country could be governed in no other way. It was fearful of confederation. It is to-day opposing the formation of a Canadian navy. The avowed reasons are strategic; but beneath this there is a fear that if Canada loses the sense of dependence on the protection of Great Britain she will break away. All history is against the belief; but for some men history is written in vain. The same errors are repeated from age to age.

Nationality has been a powerful force in the progress of Canada. It supplied one of the strongest arguments for confederation. British connection and British sentiment the Provinces had before confederation. Yet it was undoubtedly felt by the statesmen of that time that British sentiment required the aid of Canadian sentiment as a unifying force. Wherever, after confederation, there was a real or imaginary danger of annexation, the opponents of annexation made their appeal to Canadian as well as to British sentiment. They appealed to the pride of Canadians, reminding them that they had a country larger than the United States to develop, and that they might hope to establish here a nation which would

vie in greatness with the Republic.

They argued that Canadians could enjoy within the British Empire an autonomy and an identity which they must surrender if they became part of the United States. In those days it was not the fashion of imperialists to sneer at autonomy. They were wise. Their appeal to national pride was not made in vain. Some of their successors are not so wise. A Canadian member of Parliament tells us that the progress of self-government has now gone far enough, and if carried farther must result in separation. His ideal is that Canada should have a place in the Empire similar to that of a Province of Canada. Carried to its logical conclusion that means that the identity of Canada will be lost, and that the name of Canada will no longer stand for citizenship or be an incentive to patriotism. The powerful national sentiment to which the opponents of annexation appealed is to be thrown away. Surely that is a dangerous experiment. Surely it is better to pursue the old and well-tried policy of letting British sentiment and Canadian sentiment grow together.

National spirit prevented Canada from accepting the position of a group of States in the American Union. National spirit was the impulse of the Canada First movement, which powerfully influenced the public life of Canada. National spirit inspired Canadians to undertake the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, a tremendous enterprise when you consider the available resources of the country in the early eighties. Now consider the result of making Canada a Province of the Empire. It would place Canada in a position of permanent inferiority to the United States. To-day we can compare the two—nation with nation. But under the altered arrangement, the position of Canada would be like that, say, of Texas in the Union. The Texan is doubtless proud of his State, as the Ontario man is