

Irishman, and those born in other portions of the Empire. As his lordship has told you, until quite recently I had the honour of occupying the first place in the Government of the Dominion of Canada; after seventeen years and a half in the Cabinet of Canada, I retired; but though I have resigned I have no intention whatever of retiring from public duty so long as health will enable me to do what little service I can towards the advancement of the country to which I am proud to belong. Our visit to England upon this occasion is at the instance of the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Chamberlain, acting upon the principles laid down by the resolutions passed at the Ottawa Conference, where we affirmed the principle of the desirability of closer cable connection between the different parts of the Empire, and in order to accomplish that object we proposed to establish additional means of communication; first, by a fast steamship service, and next by telegraphic communication connecting every portion of the Empire, without touching foreign soil. I hope I may be spared sufficiently long to see these great objects successfully accomplished. It only shows, I think, that where the Colonists act in unison with the Mother Country, and the latter is willing to accept suggestions even from the humble members of this great Empire, we can accomplish some of the great objects for which this Institute has been organised. I fear that in dealing with a question of this kind I should be wearying you were I to attempt to express my opinions fully on the subject. We have one great desire, and that is, I repeat, to unite as closely as we possibly can all portions of this Empire, and to create not only a feeling of kinship, which really and in fact does exist, but to create and build up in our midst a bond of union that in times of trouble will stand the test. As far as Canada is concerned her affection for the Mother Country was well exemplified when she offered aid if it were wanted in the time of need. It is but a little time since a war-cloud rose in the horizon, and some difficulties were feared. British subjects in the most distant parts of the Empire at once affirmed their loyalty to the Crown, and I think from these and other evidences that you must be convinced we feel ourselves to be part and parcel, as well as an integral part of the Empire, ready at any moment to lay down our lives in defence of our institutions, and of one whom we all love and revere, our Queen. Perhaps it may be considered a little boastful, but I ask you to remember the geographical position of Canada towards the United States, and to remember that you have there a people of five or six millions living alongside a country with over 8,000 miles of frontier, and knowing,