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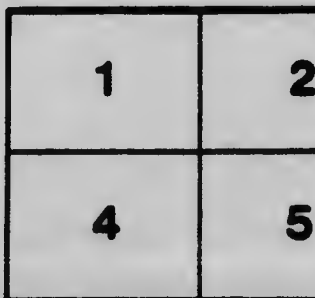
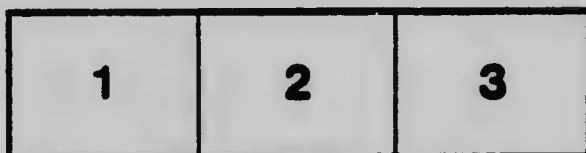
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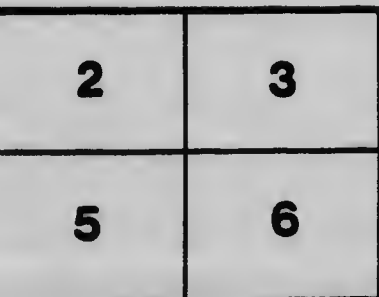
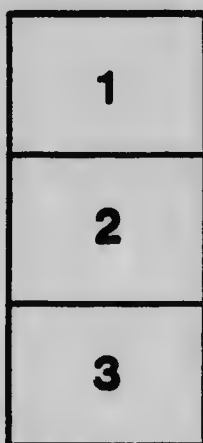
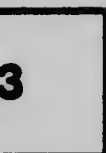
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Superintendent.*

ESSENTIALS OF BRITISH EMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

COMMERCE, COMMUNICATION AND DEFENCE

An Address delivered by Mr. P. W. Ellis, Chairman of the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park Commission, to the Delegates to the Ninth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire, at Niagara Falls, Ontario, on September 26th, 1920.

MY LORD DESBOROUGH and Gentlemen:—I have the privilege, on behalf of the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park Commission, of welcoming you to this beautiful and historic district as our distinguished guests. I greatly prize it.

You came to Canada from the Mother Country, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Ceylon and the Islands of the Sea, to hold the Ninth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire. That congress has been held, and as was to be expected from the calibre of its delegates, it has been a great success. The imagination may well be stirred by such a gathering of distinguished men from the wide Dominions of the King. Tradition, history and the story of recent events record the rise and fall of many mighty Empires. But the British Empire remains, secure in the strength and peaceful ideals of her many loyal sons. May it ever so stand. To help to reconstruct its economic structure, which has been so battered and so nearly shattered by six years of criminal war, has been your great and splendid task. War has ever divided peoples and bequeathed its legacies of hatred; but it has also been great in uniting, and cementing the friendships of, peoples under the influences of common perils and common sacrifices. And so have the British Empire and many of its gallant comrades-in-arms been united by this last great struggle. The fabric which the enemy thought to rupture and destroy, has been unified and strengthened by the shocks of war; and now you set your hands again to the tasks of peace. It was the fashion in former days to look down upon vulgar commerce. These days, however, have gone. Commerce to-day engages the attention of the world. It has enlisted in its manifold activities the ablest of the world's great men. The development of British foreign commerce is itself one of the great romances of history. The dare-devilry of the great pioneers of the Elizabethan age not only revealed the sturdy fibre of Englishmen, but it begat a spirit than is yet, and ever will be, a living force among Englishmen.

I do not wish to talk slightly of governments. Men in high places have much to stand in these days and frequently suffer much injustice, but yet it remains true that tragedy has more than once been linked to the policy of British governments while the compensations of great offsetting achievements have been secured by the capacity and enterprise of British traders. In the closing period of the Eighteenth Century, the stupendous folly of a British Government lost an empire in the west—the great, populous, and prosperous country to the south of us; but at the same time the genius of British traders won for the British Crown a splendid compensating empire in the east—the great Empire of India. Some of the greatest

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of the administrators, the soldiers, and the statesmen whose names adorn the history of the Empire, have sprung from the ranks of commerce. India, Africa and Canada all tell the same tale—a tale of great conquests and great men attending the operations of British commerce. No man participating in the Congress just concluded, can be unresponsive to the influence of this great tradition, or indifferent to this great inheritance. And it is my profound belief that the gentlemen before me are worthy scions of the stock that laid so well the foundations of our Imperial greatness.

As the Empire has so largely been built up by the efforts of those engaged in foreign commerce, so must it be maintained. The structure our fathers reared must be cemented, strengthened and enlarged by their sons—hence your gathering in this country.

In an age of almost tiresome speechmaking, I do not wish to inflict a speech upon you, but in welcoming you here, I would like to draw attention, very shortly, if I may, to three fundamental requirements of the British Empire, if it is to continue to hold its great place in the world. These requirements may be summed up shortly as comprising—Commerce, Communications and Defence.

COMMERCE:

The Empire requires to be made self-sustaining. The lessons of the War teach this conclusively. Dependence for necessities upon foreign sources, is a weakness that in times of national emergencies is fraught with serious danger. The resources and products of the Empire are capable of such development. Its many territories have been richly endowed by nature with all that is required for the principal needs of man. Its resources call only for organized cultivation. For that task the masculine virility, the tenacity of purpose, and the great constructive capacity of the Kings of Commerce and their associates are adequate. To that task you are bending your efforts, and the law of the harvest will yield the increase in due time, some thirty, some sixty and some one hundred fold. Scientific research for industrial purposes is born again. It will lend its powerful aid to this great problem. The specialist is at work in every field. The utilization of waste products, and the discovery of new processes—mechanical, chemical and metallurgical—all proceed apace, and will yield in time their revolutionary fruits. But 'self-sustaining' calls for more than the supply of daily needs. It calls for a surplus over and above the sum of daily needs, with which to make good the wastage of capital and the debt of the War; and this in turn calls for the extension of British commerce in foreign fields. It is only from the fruits of commerce that the great war debt of the Empire can be paid, the wastage of capital restored, and new capital accumulated with which to re-establish British financial and commercial supremacy throughout the world. In this process of building up the commerce of the British Empire, there must be preferential trade arrangements between the component parts. This involves no hostility to the foreigner. The principle of 'preference' is operative all about us, in family life, and in other forms of organized social life. No one contests the duty of the parent to give, or the right of his child to receive, an education, in priority to those outside the family circle. No one can properly contest the right of the Empire to provide, as its first duty, in rebuilding the structure of economic life, for a preference in the process, in favour of its own children as against the foreigner. Canada will take her share and do her part in the process. Nature has been lavish in its gifts to this country. The water-fall at your feet which lay idle for ages, is, by the aid of applied science, now employed to light, heat and drive street cars and machinery in distant cities. I will not digress into figures. It is enough to say that of approximately twenty million horsepower in waterfalls in the Dominion, only about one-tenth has been developed. Merely to give a glimpse of the taxable value of such when it is fully developed, let it be taken at \$10 per horsepower per annum. The annual proceeds at that rate would more than carry to perpetuity a national debt of four thousand million dollars—double the present heavy debt of the Dominion—a legacy of the War. And the competing power of Canadian industries after paying a price for electric current including such a tax, would, in view of world conditions, still be maintained at a high level.

Scientific research is the hand-maid of commercial development; preferential trade arrangements between the separate parts of the Empire is a twin-sister; and the process of making the Empire self-sustaining and of conquering by merit a full share of foreign trade with the rest of the world, are the tasks that lie before the Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire and the great industrial army they represent. Of labour, I would only say, that I hope the old English ideals of justice and duty will yet prevail.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Imperial development and stability call for a sufficiency of wireless cable stations—British owned—to insure uninterrupted communication at all times, with all the world; for Railways sufficient to develop the latent sources of Imperial production and to unite the sources with the markets of the Empire and the world; for Shipping, under the British flag, sufficient to maintain inter-imperial and foreign trade free of toll to the foreigner. These are elementary requirements of the sturdy and vigorous nations composing the British Empire and they are well within the organizing and financial power of its peoples. Empire commerce can only be developed to its limit upon these foundations. I am sketching, but shortly, only a few of the broad underlying requirements of Imperial development. The influence of your settled purpose to stimulate this movement to its uttermost, will be of untold value in securing its consummation.

DEFENCE:

Commerce is important; Communications are important; but adequate Defence is the fundamental condition of Empire life. The principles of adequate Imperial defence are simple, and perhaps they have never been more lucidly stated than in the Oxford Survey of the British Empire. In that admirable work, they are set out as follows:—

1. Sea supremacy is necessary to the maintenance of the Empire.
2. Each self-governing portion of the Empire should, as far as possible, provide for its own security.
3. Different portions of the Empire should be prepared to give each other mutual assistance.

These principles were defined before the outbreak of the Great War. Their soundness has been proved by the events of the War. The disposition of the peoples of the Empire to adopt them has been greatly strengthened by the War. The time has arrived for their incorporation in a formal programme of the organized Empire. Their whole-hearted adoption, however, by the self-governing units, depends upon an arrangement whereby the foreign policy of the Empire shall be approved by the self-governing units as well as by the Mother Country. The form of such an arrangement is still undetermined. Many difficulties will have to be overcome before a mutually satisfactory form is agreed upon. The surmounting of individual difficulties is, however, a necessary part of the education of strong men; and the surmounting of national difficulties is a necessary part of the education of strong statesmen. These difficulties will be overcome in due time, and no agency will be more powerful in contributing to their solution than that represented by the gentlemen I address to-day.

From the time of the destruction of the Spanish Armada in the sixteenth century to the surrender of the German fleet in the twentieth century, the Royal Navy of Great Britain has held the mastery of the seas. Its power has, in the main, ever been used on the side of justice and humanity. The world is indebted to it, in greater measure than it admits. Upon the continuation of that supremacy, our lives, our liberties, our prosperity depend. The sea annals of Great Britain's Royal Navy form a glorious unfinished chapter in its history. The responsibility rests on us to see that that chapter is never closed. Peaceful relations with all the nations of the world is the settled aim of the Empire's policy; but Imperial preservation calls for ultimate dependence on our own tried and trusty arm of the British Navy.

You all remember the stirring words of Sir Henry Newbolt:—

"Admirals all, they said their say,
"The echoes are ringing still;
"Admirals all, they went their way
"To the haven under the hill.
'But they left us an Empire none can take
"The realm of the circling sea,
"To be ruled by the rightful sons of Blake
"And the Rodneys yet to be."

In the confident belief that the Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire will play their part in maintaining the supremacy of that Empire on land and sea, and in the arts of peace to which its force and power are dedicated, I welcome you gentlemen here to-day.



