

(November 29, 1906.)

PROCEEDINGS AT THE BANQUET TENDERED TO

His Excellency The Right Honorable Earl Grey, G.C.M.G., etc.,

Governor-General of Canada,

BY THE CANADIAN CLUB, AT THE KING EDWARD HOTEL.



HIS EXCELLENCY EARL GREY.
Governor-General of Canada.

PROCEEDINGS at the banquet tendered to His Excellency the Right Honorable Earl Grey, G.C.M.G., etc., Governor-General of Canada, by the Canadian Club, at the King Edward Hotel, on the evening of November 29th, 1906.

There were present, in addition to over 300 members of the Club, the following guests: His Excellency the Governor-General, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Hon. J. P. Whitney, Prime Minister of Ontario; His Worship Mayor Coatsworth, of Toronto; Col. Hanbury-Williams, A.D.C.; Major Poynter, A.D.C.; Mr. Arthur Sladen, Lieut.-Col. Lesard, Hon. A.D.C.; Lieut.-Col. Sir Henry M. Pellatt, Hon. A.D.C.; Brigadier-General W. D. Otter, Hon. A.D.C.; Right Honorable Viscount Howick, Mr. Benson, Captain J. F. Macdonald, Rev. D. Bruce Macdonald, Dr. Neil Macphater, president of the New York Canadian Club; Mr. Asa R. Minard, secretary of the Boston Canadian Club; Mr. Pierre Beullac, president of the Montreal Canadian Club; Mr. J. H. Smith, president of the Hamilton Canadian Club; Mr. Plunket B. Taylor, president of the Ottawa Canadian Club; Dr. A. J. Mackenzie, 1st Vice-President; Mr. Geo. A. Morrow, 2nd Vice-President; Mr. Mark H. Irish, the President, and Mr. A. E. Huestis, the Secretary.

The President, Mr. Mark H. Irish, was the toast-master. He said: Your Excellency, Your Honor, and gentlemen of the Canadian Club,—The first toast this evening is the initial toast where any British gathering of this kind is assembled. I shall not desecrate it by proposing it. I shall simply ask you all to rise with me and join in drinking the health of His Majesty the King.

The National Anthem was sung.

The President said: The Canadian Club has received one letter of regret at inability to be present, from a highly esteemed gentleman whom we had hoped to have with us to-night. I shall ask our Secretary to read it, as I am sure it will be of interest to all.

The Secretary, Mr. A. E. Huestis, read the following letter:—

“THE GRANGE, Nov. 21st, 1906.

“Dear Mr. Irish:

“I am extremely sorry that the infirmities of age, aggravated just now by ill health, will prevent my having the pleasure of attending your banquet on the twenty-ninth, and therefore meeting the Governor-General, to whom I have a social tie as well as that of political allegiance. His uncle, the Earl Grey eminent in the public life of England, was my friend and political correspondent. I have before me a letter from him, written when he was advanced in years, and extending over thirty pages. We agreed in the general tenor of our politics, which was moderate Liberalism. But he, distinguished as a statesman under the party and Cabinet system, adhered to that system which I have always thought must lose its moral foundation when a vital principle of division had ceased to exist, and become faction, with the fell concomitants of faction, intrigue, demagogism and corruption. I need hardly say that I am not much shaken in my conviction by recent events here. What was bad in the Imperial country, with all its safeguards of opinion, political and social, was sure to become worse in the dependency. The Governor-General, placed by the conditions of his high office above party and bound to disregard of it, represents in a measure my ideal. So that I should have had especial pleasure in offering him my homage, as well as being once more the guest of the Canadian Club.

“Yours very truly,

“GOLDWIN SMITH.”

The President, Mr. Mark H. Irish, who was greeted with applause, said: The next toast I regard as a special privilege to propose. I realize that if I had no toast-list to guide me and, finding myself in a dilemma, should appeal to you as to what I should talk about, I should receive the unanimous response, “Talk about a minute.” (Laughter.) I have some appreciation, however, as to how popular a minute becomes when one in my position is on his feet. But there is in me enough of the Anglo-American—and I am proud of both parts of the hyphen—to accept the one occasion in our Canadian

Club season when the President has the opportunity to get even with the membership.

In accepting the invitation for this evening, His Excellency has given us the honor of being his first hosts at a public function of this kind in the capital of Ontario. In so doing he has followed out that generous and encouraging attitude which he has constantly pursued toward Canadian clubs all over the Dominion. This stamp of approval which he has been pleased to place upon these organizations has been no small factor in promoting their growth and influence. Canadian Clubs should be, and I am sure are, deeply grateful for the kindly interest and the loyal support they have always received at his hands, and I fear no dissenting voice when I beg to assure him that he has the hearty thanks of the largest of them all, our own. (Applause.)

I can tell you, however, from personal experience, that His Excellency does not grace a gathering of this kind simply because it may produce some satisfaction to him to be the recipient of kindly words and well-set phrases concerning himself and his office, because last year we extended a similar invitation and were met by the unusual reply for us Canadians to hear from the Vice-regal lips, namely, “I cannot go, I have no message for you yet.” I believe this answer indicates the character of our guest to-night as truly as an intimate biographer could do. He is not making the office of Governor-General of this great country a byword and a plaything, but when he comes to us to-night he comes with a message, he comes as a statesman of the strenuous type, the type that a new country admires, who lifts his office to a point where its height is merged in the personality of its holder.

Downing Street, paid, either intentionally or unintentionally—and we all have our opinions of Downing Street—a distinct compliment to Canada when it chose our guest of this evening, the worthy descendant of a long line of distinguished ancestors, to be His Majesty's representative among us. Yet when we think of it, it is but proper that the ruler of a country comprising one-third the area of the British Empire, extending over twenty degrees of latitude (a distance from Rome to the North Pole), bounded by three oceans, with a coast line equal to one-half the circumference of the earth and thirty times as large as the United Kingdom, should be a statesman of no small parts. In his present position His Excellency is at the head of more than a half of the white population of all the British colonies, and we should be proud of the fact that of this population 95 per cent. are British-born subjects. This

perhaps may be the reason that of the forty-eight colonies within the Empire, Canada was the first to ask for and receive self-government and likewise to form a confederation. (Applause.)

It is a pleasant thing to contemplate the times in which we find ourselves to-day and to be able to say without fear of successful contradiction, that of the 113 Governors-General who have so far served in Canada none have found us in the enjoyment of greater peace or of as great prosperity as the present incumbent of the office, nor could any Governor have been able to report to His Imperial Majesty a population more loyal or with thoughts more centred on Empire than those to-day in Canada, and this loyalty and this imperialism is not of the weakling who fawns for the protection of the strong arm that it may proceed along its way, but it comes from a united, a contented and a confident people, who realize that the day of their strength is now at hand. (Applause.)

Undoubtedly the honor we desired to do was to the Governor-General in his official capacity as representative of His Majesty in the Dominion, but Canada is a democratic colony and cheers do not come so lustily for the position if at heart the cheerer cannot shout for the man who holds it, and, with a frankness which I have often found does not make for the smoothest way, I express the belief that this gathering would never have taken place if, under our present Governor-General, we had not found combined in the highest degree the position and the man. (Applause.)

It was this circumstance that gave rise to a desire on the part of the Toronto Canadian Club to express in some form an appreciation of his worth. It is this circumstance that has made the planning and the preparation of this expression a labor of pleasure to those who have had the privilege of being most closely associated with it. It is this circumstance which has made me feel how great the honor is that you bestowed upon me last spring in that the position you gave me involved the proposing of this toast to-night. And last—but by no means least—it is this circumstance that gives me the unbounded confidence of a right royal response when I ask you, as I do now, to drink the health of His Excellency the Right Honorable Earl Grey, our guest.

As Earl Grey rose to respond, Hon. J. P. Whitney, Prime Minister of Ontario, led the gathering in three cheers and a tiger for the distinguished guest.

His Excellency said: Mr. President and gentlemen, I thank you very heartily for the very kindly and cordial recep-

tion you have extended. I can assure you that it is a great pleasure to me to be here with you to-night. I was much interested just now in hearing the letter from Mr. Goldwin Smith, particularly to learn that my distinguished uncle, the late Earl Grey, wrote a letter of thirty pages—and that before the days of typewriting. (Laughter and applause.)

I was interested, too, to gather from another sentence that the letter was written to vain purpose, that Mr. Goldwin Smith remained unshaken in his convictions. (Renewed laughter.)

Gentlemen, I promise you that no speech I shall make will correspond in length to the letter of my uncle, and I venture the hope that I may succeed somewhat better with you than did my uncle with Mr. Goldwin Smith. I do not think there is any difference between your convictions and my own. I believe we are all loyal to the Empire and all of the opinion that to develop Canada is the best step to take to promote the interests of the Empire. (Applause.)

Your President has been kind enough to speak in the usual terms of eulogy of the Governor-General. It is now nearly two years since I assumed that high and honorable position. During that time I trust I have not been idle. True, I have not yet visited every prominent part of your magnificent Dominion, but, after the graphic geographical description given to the bounds of the Dominion by your President, you will acquit me of want of energy if I have not succeeded in penetrating to every portion of it. (Renewed laughter and applause.)

But I have endeavored to make as large an acquaintance with the country, its people, and its industries as opportunities have permitted, and if spared to serve the remainder of my allotted term, I am beginning to hope that, when I pass on the mantle I shall have further completed my knowledge of and love for your Dominion. (Applause.)

This year I travelled from St. John, Newfoundland, to Victoria, on the Island of Vancouver. It was delightful and interesting. Everywhere was hope, prosperity and contentment. The inhabitants honestly believed they were favored with living in the best part of the Dominion, which is, after all, the best part of the whole world.

I was interested in the manner in which these conditions reflected themselves in the members of my own staff. At various stages of our trip I asked them: "What part of this country would you elect to settle in, if you were a newly-arrived immigrant?" Invariably, after apparently taking every pains

to learn all the conditions, the answer was that they would like to purchase a farm in the immediate neighborhood. (Laughter and applause.)

I contemplated with much amusement the state of embarrassment that would result, but may I say to-night that did they do me the honor of asking my advice I would counsel their securing from the Prime Minister of Ontario, with whom I have been talking, a homestead lot on the Gillies limit. (Laughter and applause.) And if they were successful in obtaining the permission from Mr. Whitney I would be much pleased if they decided to take the Governor-General in as a partner with them. (Renewed laughter.)

And what is the development which lies within the womb of the broad belt of rich and fertile land, stretched over a distance greater than that which separates England from the Caspian Sea—I offer that, Mr. President, in comparison with your own—(loud laughter)—and nearly every inch of which is suitable for happy British homes? Why, this, that it is only a question of time before you, the people of Canada, become, because of your numbers, if you remain united, high-souled, public-spirited and incorruptible, the most powerful factor, not only in the British Empire, but in the English-speaking world. (Applause.)

Gentlemen, although I do not think it necessary to comment on the material resources of the Dominion, the varied and extensive character of which leads me to believe Aladdin located a treasure cave in almost every part of Canada, I specially congratulate you on the proved existence at Cobalt of large deposits of some of the richest silver ore the world has ever seen.

I understand that ore worth many millions of dollars is already in sight, and I hope the wealth produced will lead both directly and indirectly to the enrichment and happiness of the people of this Province. I understand no one is yet in a position to say definitely how far the area and depth of these rich silver deposits extend. My experience elsewhere of mining booms leads me to believe that this uncertainty will give an opportunity to unscrupulous company promoters to take advantage of the excitement which these rich discoveries invariably engender in the human heart. I would earnestly warn the people of Canada, of New York and of London that before they spend their spare cash on the purchase of mining stocks they should carefully discriminate between mere prospects and proved mines, and take care that in their anxiety to become part owners of a silver mine they do not find them-

selves the owners of nothing more profitable than surface rocks and trees.

Hon. Mr. Whitney—Hear, hear!

I hope that remark will not lessen the interest of my staff in getting a homestead on the Gillies limit—(laughter)—but I know what your Prime Minister's hopes are on the subject. Mr. Whitney will concur, I feel assured, in my belief that the wealth of this country rests rather in the results from the tilling of the soil than those that are taken in buckets and car-loads, from the bowels of the earth. There is in our great Canadian wheat fields as great material value and incomparably greater moral value than in all the wealth of the Gillies limit.

Hon. Mr. Whitney—Hear, hear.

Your agriculture has made great developments at the Guelph College. It is indeed an achievement to have obtained a seed which will enable farmers to garner three bushels more to the acre. Let me refer to one little experience we had in the wheat fields at Indian Head. Here we came across four men in their automobiles. They started in the North-West many years ago with industry and character as their only capital. They had converted the wheat into autos worthy of millionaires and owners of Cobalt mines. Nothing impressed me more during the whole journey across Canada than the farming profits made by competent and cautious gentlemen in British Columbia. They were sensational figures, more appropriate to the booming prospectus of a Cobalt mine than to the steady results of earnest agricultural work. I read with much interest and approval the capital speeches in British Columbia by Mr. Byron E. Walker, whom I see here to-night. There are wonderful possibilities for the fruit orchards there.

If the rate of growth in the settlement of the North-West proceeds at its present pace, it can only be a question of time before the farmers of the Dominion will look to the markets of the Orient as an outlet for their produce. I would consequently suggest to you that you should take care that you do not teach the Orient to imitate Occidental ways by closing their open doors against a trade on the increase of which your prosperity may depend.

Although Canada possesses the natural trade route between Europe and the Orient, last year the exports from the United States to Japan were \$50,000,000, while the exports from Canada, from which nature has decreed that the future exports to Japan from this continent shall sail, were only a beggarly half-million dollars, or only one-hundredth part of that which

goes to Japan from the more distant ports of the United States.

I believe it would be greatly to the advantage of Canada if more active steps were taken than I believe are now being taken to educate the populations of Japan, Corea and China to appreciate the excellence of Canadian food products, for which I am informed a considerable demand could, with little organization and without great expense, be greatly stimulated.

Gentlemen, if you were to ask me what points have struck me as most requiring the attention of those who can spare sufficient time from the agreeable business of making their fortunes, I would say that the chief requisites of Canada appear to me to be the taking of such steps.

(1) As will lay firmly and securely the foundations of a future trade with the Orient;

(2) As will perfect your system of transportation east and west, and secure to Canada the full benefit of her geographical position;

(3) As will increase the supply of labor.

I am impressed by the evidence which has reached me from every side, of the way in which agricultural and industrial developments, besides great public works of construction, on which the life of the country depends, are kept back by the difficulty of obtaining labor.

There is much work requiring to be done which the Canadian and the Englishman will not do, and for which it would appear that foreign labor must be imported from outside.

I believe there is an abundance of capital ready to come in to develop the resources of Canada if only the necessary labor can be obtained. An abundant supply of cheap labor would also appear to be a condition precedent to the demand for highly-paid labor, such as that which the skilled artisans of Toronto can supply, and if your railways awaiting construction are to be quickly built, and your lands are to be cleared at a cost which will not impose an unnecessarily heavy charge for all time upon yourselves and your children, this question of labor is one which calls for your attention.

Gentlemen, arrested development for want of labor, a stricken population for want of sanitation, are both evils which it is in the power of man to remove. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Whitney, allow me to express the hope that the new towns of the northern districts of your Province will not be co-sharers in the disasters which befell some of the new western cities which neglected provisions for the health of their people.

Hon. Mr. Whitney—Hear, hear.

I desire, moreover, Mr. Whitney, to congratulate you that the possibilities of the wealth are further advanced by the construction of the Canadian Northern and Ontario Railways. There is now the prospect of Toronto being on a complete line across the continent. I congratulate Mr. Mann, who I see is present, on what has been accomplished and I hope that the prognostication of a complete transcontinental line will be verified. I want to congratulate you, too, on the splendid enterprise of the Electrical Development Company. I believe that Mr. Mann and Colonel Pellatt deserve the deep and lasting gratitude of the country. Their courage and their brains are enriching the life of the whole community. Their initiative and pluck will earn them the affection, good-will and gratitude of the country. They reflect the spirit of a huge and fertile country.

But there is a danger hanging over parts of the North-West against which it is difficult to combat, and that is the possible recurrence of a cycle of dry years.

We must always remember that Canada has been blessed by an exceptionally long run of exceptionally favorable seasons, and the experience of the past leads us to fear that the fat years we have enjoyed may be followed by a cycle of lean years. This possibility should be present to the minds of those to whom a temporary break in the long run of good fortune might mean a fall in values, with consequent financial embarrassment, and possible ruin.

When the grown Canada shakes the world with his strength, will it be for evil or for good? The answer to that question depends upon yourselves—upon you, the young men of the Canadian Club, who have it in your power to shape for good or for evil the character of your country. (Applause.)

It should be the special duty of the Canadian Clubs to take such steps as may be necessary to create a public opinion which shall be strong enough to keep your judiciary pure and incorruptible, your administration, Federal, Provincial and municipal, absolutely clean, and the highest ideals of duty and of disinterested citizenship before your schools; and if you, through the vigor with which your Canadian Club organizations condemn any departure or falling from these national ideals, succeed in creating a public opinion which shall cause every man to feel that it is better for him to be honest than to be smart, and that character counts for more than wealth in the assets and the good opinion of the nation, then I say there would appear to be no limit to the greatness which awaits you, the people of Canada. (Applause.)

I notice that some wild hopes have been recently expressed at Chicago that Canada shall be absorbed into the political constitution of the United States. Well, are you going to lose your individuality through absorption by the States? No! a thousand times, no!

I agree with the late Principal Grant, who was one of the greatest Romans of you all, when he said, in the emphatic language of Scripture, "It is a shame even to speak of such a thing—we would repent it only once, and that would be forever." (Laughter and applause.)

No, gentlemen, your Imperial connection with the Mother Land promotes, it does not retard, the growth of your national development, and, conversely, the growth and development of your nationality bring strength and security to England and the Empire. (Applause.)

The responsibility of how you shape your future rests entirely upon yourselves. You are not weakened by the Imperial connection any more than a man is weakened by the love of a mother who watches with proud and anxious heart the honorable steps of her son's upward and onward career.

But although the fond old mother does not wish to check the growth in her self-governing children of the qualities of manhood, she is always willing to give help. (Hear, hear.)

I know there are some people who rejoice in the good fortune they enjoy in living in a country where there is no debt for naval or military expenditure, but I would venture to ask them whether that position is a generous one for them to adopt towards the people of the United Kingdom. It is true that the debt for the military and naval expenditure which has given Canada her freedom, and the burden of naval expenditure which is still required to secure it, does not weigh on Canada—that is perfectly true, but it is equally true that this burden which is not borne by Canada is borne by the taxpayers of the United Kingdom.

The reason why you are able to develop your nationality, the reason why your commerce sails securely on the high seas, is because you are safe within the protecting circle of the British Crown.

Gentlemen, when an Englishman pays his taxes, I admit with the grumble which is the inalienable prerogative of every Englishman—(laughter)—he feels a secret pride lurking within his heart, as he reflects that in paying the tax required to meet the obligations of a national debt incurred in the wars waged by his fathers to establish a greater Britain beyond the seas,

he is in some manner sharing in the glorious achievement of his illustrious ancestors. (Hear, hear.)

Gentlemen, it is the honorable and distinguished privilege of the people of the United Kingdom that they are carrying, practically unaided, the burden of the debt incurred in the making of Greater Britain, and in the present administration and defence of the British Empire. They do not complain that they should be allowed by you to carry the whole burden themselves. They know you and the other self-governing nations, when the appointed time arrives, will assume your portions of Imperial obligations, and they are content to wait until the feeling of self-respect, which I believe to be inherent in all men of British blood, will produce a system of Imperial federation in which the self-governing peoples of the United Kingdom, of Canada, of Australasia, New Zealand and South Africa will join on terms of an equal partnership under which each will contribute their fair and equal share towards the discharge of Imperial responsibilities and of Imperial obligations. (Loud applause.)

These are three alternatives which Canadians have before them:

Absorption by the United States;

A weak and impotent isolation;

And a recognized position in a pan-Britannic federation, in which each component part can hope to reach that position of leadership to which it is entitled by reason of its moral and material strength, and through which it can exercise its influence in the councils of the world. (Loud applause.)

I would not have you think, gentlemen, that I am one of those who hold that Canada is not contributing to the strength of the Empire because she does not at present contribute to the fleet.

You are doing a great work in making Canada the half-way house of Empire, and in straining every nerve by means of your transcontinental railways to shorten the transit between England and the Orient, and you have every reason to be proud of what you, with your comparatively small population, have accomplished and are accomplishing.

In addition to these services which you have contributed to the Empire there is another service which you are in a position to render to the Empire, and for which the genius of your people is peculiarly adapted.

If every school in Canada gave the same drill which is given by the best schools of Winnipeg and Toronto, to the great benefit of all concerned, then Canada would be able to

contribute in moments of emergency thousands of soldiers who, by reason of their character and efficiency, would be able to render the greatest assistance to the Crown.

I wish, gentlemen, there could be found some way of bestowing a crown of honor on that city which could show the largest number of efficient cadets in proportion to its population, and I am confident that were such an honor bestowed the spirit which animates the patriotic citizens of every one of your larger cities would not grudge the private subscription of such funds as might be necessary to enable their adopted city to win the coveted crown. (Loud and continued applause.)

I am grateful, gentlemen, for the patience with which you have listened to me. I have made no attempt to boom Canada, but, rather, to put forward a few thoughts that may do us all good. I shall go away, Mr. Irish, with very pleasant recollections of the evening spent with you. My hope is that Toronto and Ontario may prove an example to the rest of Canada and the British Empire in contributing to the higher national life of the country and the higher prosperity of the whole Empire. (Renewed applause.)

The Vice-President, Dr. A. J. Mackenzie, proposed the toast of "Our Province." He said: Your Excellency, Your Honor, Mr. President and Gentlemen, I am glad to express on behalf of the Canadian Club its appreciation of the honor conferred by His Excellency in giving us the valuable address to which we have just listened. It appeals to our club and its objects.

We have heard and appreciated His Excellency's description of our country and there is no portion of it which is the equal of our own Province of Ontario, with its agricultural resources, its mineral wealth, its scenery, its important waterways, its citizenship and its climate.

A short time ago there was placed at the head of affairs in this Province a gentleman whose sterling honesty, industry and devotion to the welfare of the Province have earned him the admiration of all parties and all political persuasions.

His Excellency—Hear, hear.

Ontario is proud of Hon. J. P. Whitney on account of the work he has already done for the Province. (Applause.)

The Provincial Premier on rising was accorded three cheers, the cheering being led by His Excellency.

Hon. J. P. Whitney said: Your Excellency, Your Honor, Mr. President, and gentlemen of the Canadian Club,—After having listened, as we all have done, to the splendid dissertation by His Excellency on the material resources of our com-

mon country, and his splendid and, it seems to me, cautious forecast with regard to its future, he would be a bold man indeed who would suggest that, as far as the subject is concerned, it required any further explanation, any addition or any further comment. I will not presume, under the circumstances, to say one word to-night, following him as I do, but for the fact that I occupy to a certain extent an official position here, and that there are one or two points at any rate on which I expected to say something with reference to the subjects discussed, and with reference to the cause of this function.

Let me say, first of all, with regard to the Province of Ontario, that the Province of Ontario appreciates its position—or rather that the people of the Province of Ontario appreciate its position. They believe and appreciate the British system of government, because they know that under it they have thrived and have grown prosperous, and in regard to which they have obtained as participants in that civil and religious liberty which has emanated from the British form of government, unexampled blessings and privileges down through the centuries to the present day. That is why they are satisfied. (Applause.)

The material resources of the Province are vast in richness as in great extent, and are perhaps more or less mysterious in their nature, but while we value them highly, we, the people of Ontario, do not forget for a moment the privileges and blessings which are theirs and to which I undertook to refer but a moment ago.

We have not forgotten nor are likely to forget the fact that we have a most salubrious climate, that the lot of the people of Ontario has been cast in pleasant places, that we have the protection as well as the high honor which belongs to the British system of government, and to the British Empire. (Applause.)

We appreciate fully, as our blood courses through our veins, that we live under the freest form of government under the sun, the only form of government under which a grateful, thankful, liberty-loving people from day to day have the right and power, when they have the will, to change their Government. We feel our appreciation of our form of government is necessary. It would be carrying coals to Newcastle, however, and it would be truly and entirely a supererogation were I to attempt one word at all as to our appreciation of our present Provincial Government. (Laughter and applause.) So, I feel the task is beyond me.

With regard to the material resources of the Province, I may say I think it well to observe a discreet reticence to-night. There is a limit, you know, beyond which it would not be wise to go. (Laughter.) Besides, Mr. Chairman, there are strangers among us, and while I am sure we will of necessity be ready at all times to fulfil the Scriptural injunction, and take them in, they might perhaps take us in. Therefore I will pass with discreet reticence over our material resources.

Now, I was about to say, I will come to a more pleasing subject for discussion, but I can say it and truthfully that it is a very distinct pleasure for me to speak as the Premier of the Province of Ontario with regard to the guest of the evening. We know this distinguished gentleman, and we welcome him not only in his official capacity, but as an upright English gentleman. (Applause.)

We know, sir, that the nephew of Charles, Earl Grey, of the Parliament of 1830, of whose musical eloquence Macaulay said the people were wont to listen until the morning shone upon the gilded tapestries of the House of Lords, must be no common or ordinary man. (Applause.)

We have honor and pride in adjudging him the very best that we might expect him to be, and what he is and has proved himself to be, not only one of the great Empire-builders of his day, but a grand statesman and constitutional consul such as Britain has been in the habit of sending forward on the Imperial mission during the past one or two hundred years. (Applause.)

I am proud to feel and to know, Mr. Chairman, that in this respect, in speaking as I do, of the guest of the evening, that I have with me, in unison, the heart and mind of the entire population of the Province of Ontario. (Applause.) I am sure that our distinguished guest appreciates the situation, and appreciates that fact. At any rate he need have no doubt as to the truth of that fact. (Applause.)

Now, sir, it was my intention to have stopped at this period, but I feel, as representing Ontario at any rate, that I must notice one of the points touched upon in the course of the evening. Sir, I know aright the adult population of Ontario, aye, and of all the Dominion of Canada, when I say that there is not the slightest possibility, not a glimmering or a shadow of a chance of the present generation of the British people in North America desiring a severance of the ties that bind them to Great Britain. (Prolonged applause.)

You may go from Cape Race to the shores of the Pacific Ocean, and you may stop in every town and city intervening,

and you may visit every village, every home, every school section in that vast distance and you cannot find one human being, one adult British subject, who will stand up in public and advocate the severance of the tie which makes us part of the British Empire, and the annexation of this people to any outside country. (Prolonged applause.)

Now, let it not be understood, for a moment, that we have anything but the warmest feelings towards, and the kindest regards for our neighbors and cousins to the south of us. I am one to admire them for the loyalty and enthusiasm with which at all times and in all places they make it clear to those who are looking on that they have their country and are determined to be proud of its success. (Hear, hear.) I well know they were but taking a leaf out of our own book, because that was our course long, long ago, and we have seen no reason to change.

Why should we change? Situated as we are, with the liberties, privileges and blessings which are ours, with the climate and soil that are ours, with the high moral standard of the people who dwell within our borders, why should we wish to change? I am bound to say that on the other side of the border there is no more than a mere paroxysmal and occasional ebullition of any suggestion even that the Canadian people wish to change their allegiance. (Applause.)

Their British connection is not only a sentiment with the Canadian people. If it is possible, it is more than sentiment—if there is any stronger word, it ought to be applied towards our connection with the British Empire. (Applause.)

We do not feel that we are colonies any longer. There was a time in the devolution of affairs when we were dependencies, provinces, colonies of the British Empire. To-day we are the outposts of Empire, all over the world, radiating to people with whom we come in contact the good results of British constitutional connection and British rule. (Applause.)

We are the British dominions beyond the seas. We are on one side of the Atlantic and with the old Mother Country on the other side we are part and parcel, an integral portion of the British Empire to-day. (Applause.)

If ever the time should come when we can possibly conceive any such condition of affairs as would cause separation between the Dominion of Canada and Great Britain, let me repeat the wish of the eloquent Joseph Howe, that the last sound, heard on that occasion and swept across the Atlantic to the mother of nations, might be the expiring wail of the

Canadian loyalist sorrowing over 'the separation which would take place. (Applause.)

That is the feeling which actuates the people to-day. I hope I haven't taken too much time in speaking of it. It goes without saying, my words find echo I know in the hearts and minds of all my listeners. You can go anywhere through the length and breadth of the land to-day, and attempt to get up a discussion on this subject. If you should you will find the people all voicing the expression and following the intention that "British subjects we were born and British subjects we will die." (Applause.)

Let it be well understood here that while for the last forty years we have been endeavoring under circumstances of more or less stress to build up a great nationality—and to my mind, sir, we have succeeded—let it be understood to every person of inquiring mind, outside or within the country, that the future of the Dominion of Canada is bound up forever with the future of the British Empire. Here will be found, when our children occupy our places, and our grandchildren occupy theirs, that sentiment exemplified in the rose, thistle and shamrock lovingly entwined with the white lilies of France, and will continue to be the guide for each succeeding generation, evidencing that worth and appreciation of those labors which have fostered British constitutional government and British institutions in this Canada of ours. (Loud applause.)

The singing of the National Anthem brought the banquet to a close.