

**SPEECHES DELIVERED
IN CANADA IN THE
AUTUMN OF 1908**

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Speeches Delivered in Canada in the Autumn of 1908 by Viscount Milner

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VISCOUNT MILNER

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IN THE AUTUMN OF 1908

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

By

VISCOUNT MILNER

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PREFACE.

At the request of some of my Canadian friends, I have consented to the publication of the addresses which I delivered in Canada—mostly to Canadian Clubs—during my recent visit to that country.

The only speech of any length delivered by me at any public meeting in Canada, which is not reprinted here, is my speech at the dinner of the British Empire League in Toronto on October 28th.

This omission is not made because I desire in any way to modify that speech, still less because I fail to appreciate the importance of the occasion upon which it was delivered.

The audience at the British Empire League dinner was as representative and influential as any I had the honor of addressing during my whole visit, and Colonel Denison's speech on that occasion would have been alone sufficient to make the meeting a memorable one. But the conditions of an after-dinner speech are necessarily not the most favorable for the discussion of a complicated and somewhat technical subject like that of Imperial Preference, and, as a matter of fact, I dealt with precisely the same questions, but at greater length and with more elaboration, a few days later in my address to the Board of Trade of Montreal, which is included in this volume. I did not wish to weary my

readers by presenting them with what is in substance the same speech, twice over.

I have only one word to say in extenuation of the very rough and fragmentary character of the material now submitted to the public. The addresses contained in this volume are not a series of lectures, nor do they represent a premeditated effort of any kind. I was simply caught at various stages in a somewhat hurried and arduous journey, and compelled, *volens volens*, to speak. And so I just did the best I could, always with inadequate preparation, and sometimes without any. Under the circumstances, any little value which these speeches may possess must be attributed to the fact that the subject which was uppermost in my mind at the time—namely, the future relations of Canada and the other self-governing dominions to the United Kingdom and to one another—is one to which for years I have given a good deal of thought; and that, in speaking about it, I was drawing on a certain fund of experience. I should be the last to claim that my treatment of it in these pages was by any means exhaustive. But they may nevertheless contain suggestions of some interest to other workers in the same field.

MILNER.

S.S. "Victorian," Nov. 10th, 1908.

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