

trench unduly into the public domain, one which ought to be held sacredly for *gradual settlement* and national development for *future* generations as well as the present.

The road, as linking the two oceans, obviating, in case of emergency (in the Pacific Ocean--the next great battle ground) the circuitous route by the Capes--for the transport of war material and military force, and also as serving vital military objective points on the route, is clearly of large Imperial concern--certainly to the extent of one-half. In the measure of that interest, we repeat, it certainly ought to give aid, or itself make the road in parts where, from the nature of the country, as between Nipissing and the western shore of Lake Superior, and the mountainous part of British Columbia, there is little or no land along the route available for settlement, and where sale for mineral value would be prejudicial or impossible.

The aid might be in mere guarantee of certain interest on bonds, or in direct grant, or in any other way, but in any case should be material enough to give a proprietary or *quasi*-proprietary interest and voice in the work to the Home Government.

If that be not done, there is an alternative indicated by earlier remarks in this writing, when speaking of the annexation tendencies of some of the people of Canada, and of the causes (natural and reasonable in some measure) of that defection, which might--probably would--cost the British Empire and name more loss than she could possibly suffer by the aid invoked.

Besides, there is involved in it something more than a mere question of shekels. There is the element of national duty, which, ignored, will, in course, bring its own Nemesis in national dissolution.

I am no Calchas nor son of a Calchas, but as one, though humble of the British people, involved in this momentous problem of British life in America, I would, in face of these rising facts around which threaten "our national *weens* and our life as of the British people," protest against such deadly neglect.



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