

Ministers are often too busy, or too amenable to the explanations offered by their own officials, to apply the necessary cure. As matters stand now, there are certain requirements common to the whole service, such as those relating to office space, equipment, printing of reports, and other mechanical incidentals, wherein the hand of intelligent authority is most sadly lacking,—to the great detriment of the public service. The amount of wasted effort and of fruitless planning is enervating in the highest degree to the officer who has to do important work; and the effect is to paralyze the faculty of initiative, where initiative is sorely needed. The fact is that the ordinary officer should not have to waste his energies over these matters. It ought to be enough that the need exists; the satisfaction of the need (a mere business matter, after all, and in no way demanding super-human effort even for so large a business as that of the Government) ought to follow with reasonable promptness.

In so far as there is a principle involved, the problem should be squarely met. As to details and full fruition of benefits, these will follow more slowly. Our contributor, meanwhile, has given us something definite to think about, and to act upon.

“MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT CANADA.”

The most vitally and widely interesting feature of the celebration at Quebec is not the three centuries of that city's life—a slow and quiet existence for the most part, despite famous thrilling incidents long ago. It is not the historical significance of the story of British and French rivalry and warfare and final union (with some marked limitation) in Canada. It isn't race, and it isn't royalty visiting America in an official capacity. It is Canada.

The Dominion was long a story and a promise—sometimes seeming hardly more than a hope. Now it is a fact—large, virile, expanding, thought-compelling. It is a great empire within a greater, a virtual republic under a monarch's flag, a realm of immense open spaces and unmeasured natural resources, only beginning to find itself as a power in the world of industry and commerce, and a factor in the progress of mankind.

Canada is still underrated, scarcely understood. It is always belittled rather than exaggerated by outsiders. Its future is read darkly through the narrow lens of an inadequate past.

The fertile land which is not too far north or too high above the sea to have a fairly good climate may constitute a comparatively small part of British America, but it is sufficient for a great population and the creation of great wealth. A thin slice of Canada is bigger than many a famous empire. Add the timber, the minerals, the water power, the fisheries, the waterways and the ports of the Dominion, and it stands out among the newer lands of the earth as richly endowed, vast and of tremendous possibilities.

Every event which centres attention upon Canada turns a searchlight upon crude forces, vast spaces, huge stores of natural wealth—all that makes a young land worth the study of those who concern themselves with the larger movements of human progress. For Canada is essentially young, notwithstanding the three centuries Quebec is celebrating. That city is an ancient gateway to a new empire, a picturesque old fortress guarding a river which drains much untested and unused wilderness.

Make no mistake about Canada. A great nation is growing, faster and faster, across the northern boundary of the United States.

—Cleveland Leader.