

rather than a colonial basis. But whilst the Minister of Justice at Ottawa had the best of the argument the Colonial Secretary in Downing Street had the last word.

Even a quarter of a century later, when the Australian Confederacy was being born, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain was able, in spite of the vigorous protests of the Australians, to impose the colonial status upon the Supreme Court of the island continent.

But many things have happened since the Blake-Carnarvon correspondence of the middle seventies of the last century, and many things besides the automobile, and the flying machine, and wireless telegraphy, have happened even since the beginning of the present century. Some political dreams have come true and some political visions have taken on form and substance. The war has not only torn down, but it has built up, and whether we like it or not the political world of 1920 is a different world from that of the natal year of Australia twenty years ago, and a different world from that of the natal year of Canada more than fifty years ago.

Germany, the great Babylonia of the modern world, is fallen, bankrupt morally and materially. Austria has all but disappeared from the map. Russia is another name for anarchy and old chaos come again. France and Italy are war-worn and weary and will not recover from the shock in a generation. Besides they have no area for expansion and no reserve of natural resources. So that the geographers' list of first rate powers of my boyhood has been pretty well shot to pieces, and the Anglo-Saxon nations alone emerge comparatively and potentially greater than they were before and therefore with correspondingly greater responsibilities. The North American Continent, from the Rio Grande to the Arctic Circle, the continent of Australia, New Zealand, the continent of Africa, and lastly, the right little tight little islands, set like gems in the midst of the

seas, the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, mother of the free institutions and of the common law of them all—in the hands of these nations for good or for ill, is to a very large extent the destiny of the world.

And if any division of the nations of the world into classes were now to be made by geographers or historians for the information of the rising generation, Canada and Australia would certainly be included among the first half dozen names, and any study of the present, or forecast of the future, relations of the Britannic nations must take notice of this change of status of Canada and Australia. It has ceased to be a question for academic discussion. It is not a matter of theory or argument. It is a matter of conditions and of fact.

Greatness in a nation does not depend wholly upon any one factor. It certainly does not depend upon numbers—else China would be the greatest nation in the world. It does not depend upon area alone, or Russia would be greatest. Both numbers and areas are factors, but the greatest assets of a nation and therefore the greatest factors in nationality are in the character, the intelligence, the energy and the initiative of her people.

Canada has vast area and boundless reserves of natural resources and 9,000,000 of people unsurpassed in intelligence, energy, initiative and character by the people of any nation in the world, and if not now actually in the front rank of the nations, she is so potentially and before the middle of the twentieth century will, if she is true to herself, take rank in wealth and world influence beside her elder sister on this continent.

That is the material and practical side. There is also the sentimental side.

The young poet, Rupert Brooke, wrote in his diary just before his death, early in the war, that he intended to write a poem on the "non-locality of England". Wherever his