

# Canadian Independence

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## DIFFICULTIES IN CHANGING THE BASIS OF THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

I do not mean by this to refer to minor difficulties in procuring from the Imperial Parliament amendments to the British North America Act (Canada's Constitution) to meet exceptional cases, such as extending the life of Parliament, or to remedy some omission in the terms of the Act, or even to change some of the relations between the Dominion and the Provinces, or the powers of Parliament or of the Legislatures—all such amendments would be matters of detail. The change I have in mind would affect the very basis of the Constitution, and the purpose of this paper is to explain shortly the main constitutional and practical questions which would have to be solved should any movement for Canada's independence and separation from the British Empire ever receive the support of the majority of her people.

Those who would now support such a movement are very few, and I cannot help feeling that they have not thought out what the accomplishment of Canadian Independence would involve.

### *Review of Present Position*

In order that we may understand the changes which would be required to turn Canada from her present constitutional position into an independent Nation, a short review of the present position is necessary.