

THE CANADIAN COURIER

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EXTENSIONS

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TORONTO - - - - - ONTARIO

FIRST AS CANADIANS.

AS a rule we refrain from printing complimentary letters about ourselves, on the principle that it's rather bad taste for a man to tell a crowd of people what a fine fellow he is said to be by a friend of his. But we make an occasional exception in the case of a compliment which contains useful criticism and advice. Here is one, and it fits in so well with what we are trying every week to say in this column, that the writer—who is a financial managing director in London, Ont.—might have written it on our own typewriter:

Editor, Canadian Courier,—

Your representative called on me one day this week, and I am glad to learn from him that he is increasing the number of your subscribers here very largely.

From a national standpoint it is very desirable that a copy of the Courier should be in every Canadian home. The trouble is, nationally speaking, we are trying to make all new-comers British before endeavouring to make them Canadians.

If we can make them good Canadians they will naturally be good Britishers. Yet these ultra-loyal people absorb, probably unconsciously, more U. S. sentiment through the number of publications that are admitted duty free into this country than Canadian or even British; and if the Canadian Courier, or some other National paper, cannot stem the tide, this country will be thoroughly United States in the next fifty years.

THERE is such a thing as a nutshell and this is it. For ten years the Canadian Courier has been practising the tune represented on the cover of this issue, getting ready for the time when the people of Canada should need the kind of paper produced in 1917, under the conditions of 1917. We have no objection to helping citizens of this country become good Britishers. We should be glad to feel sure that for the next fifty years at least fifty per cent. of our immigrations will be from the British Isles. The editor of this paper was once asked at a public meeting in the West of England, what Canada would yet do—when the time came—for the mother country? He replied: "That depends a good deal on how many people you send to Canada before the time comes."

But Britishers come to Canada to be—Canadians. In this respect they begin on an even keel with all other imported peoples; but they have an immense advantage in understanding the genius of this country because it is historically both British and French.

Now any local or metropolitan newspaper may be just as Canadian as the Canadian Courier. But because of either party or local connections none of these papers can go far enough. The Canadian Courier is the only paper in the country which has taken upon itself the task of reflecting the sentiment of the whole of Canada. We know it's a big contract. We have been ten years finding that out. We know it's a bigger contract now than ever it was. The next ten years will show how we propose to meet the conditions.

But the only way we can do it is to consider our readers—first, as Canadians; second, as anything else they care to be. To this end we propose to publish any kind of matter that makes good grist to a Canadian mill—because the people of this country belong to most of the countries known to civilization. We don't care for Japanese or Chinese features; we do care for Canadian interest in the biggest kind of way. And we propose to see that first-of-all Canadian is the policy and programme of this all-Canada paper.

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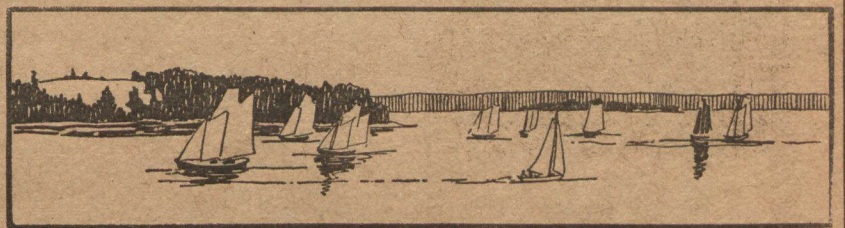


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