



A word of explanation

The following is a translation of two series of articles which appeared in "Le Devoir", from July the 16th to the 26th... with but one excision from the first article of the second series on "National Disintegration", published on the 21st of July; the part omitted,—a reply to the Montreal Star,—being of merely casual interest.

Of all the systematic attempts to paint the Nationalist movement under false colours, none has yet approached the brazen calumny which transformed those articles, written with the avowed object of pointing out the real danger of the absorption of Canada by the United States, "the most permanent of all perils that threaten the permanency of the Canadian confederation", (1) into a plea for the annexation of Canada to the United States!

In spite of other similar experiences, I had never realised how easy it is, for a few unscrupulous politicians and journalists, to trade upon the deplorable ignorance of the French language, which is the misfortune of the vast majority of English-speaking Canadians. A bunch of clippings from British and American, as well as English-Canadian papers, convinced me of the possible success of a propaganda of that kind.

The object of this one is clearly apparent. Urged by the money and influence of the enormous interests involved in the building of warships and the manufacture of weapons, both in Germany and Great Britain, the jingo and yellow journals of Canada are cooperating in increasing the competition in armaments, by dragging Canada and the other British colonies in the deadly game of Europe.

In the province of Quebec, naturally less moved than the rest of Canada by appeals to Anglo-Saxon racial feelings, they see the main obstacle to their end; and they look upon the Nationalist movement, which first broke the spell of Laurierism in Quebec and now offers a resistance to tory subjugation, as the real impediment in their path. Therefore, it must be annihilated. By means of exalted pro-French articles, first pu-

(1) See page 7.