

heavy expense necessitated by modern warfare, in order to protect herself against possible and probable attack ; in order to guard her ports from invasion ; and this not from any desire of her own to take part in the war, or from any *a priori* reason why she should take part in it, but simply because she is a portion of the British Empire. It would be difficult to conceive a position more injurious to the well-being of any country than this. It is no answer that hitherto Canada has felt no ill effect from this condition of things. During the last European war in which England was engaged, Canada was not of sufficient importance to be worth attacking. Now, however, the seizing of Ottawa, the sacking of Montreal or Toronto, would be a ready and convenient means of raising funds to meet the wants of the battle-field. In the event of England's being dragged into a European war, it would of necessity follow that Canada would have to be placed on a war footing ; and this, be it remembered, without yielding moral or material support to England, but merely in order to protect herself against possible invasion. Already men in this country can foresee the injurious consequences of such a position ; but what will the danger be when Canada has increased to a country with a population of ten or twenty millions ? Would it be possible to tolerate a voiceless submission to this state of affairs ? I think not.

Again, let us consider the question of the treaty-making power.

Canada, as a colony, has no power to make treaties with foreign nations. Treaties can be made only by the Imperial authorities, and the only recognized official channel through which Canadian interests can be represented is the Governor General in correspondence with the Colonial Secretary. No matter how much, no matter how deeply, the interests of Canada may be involved, the supreme chamber in which the treaty is ratified, is a cham-

ber in which Canada has no voice. As the country grows and develops, it cannot be otherwise but that this condition of things must be found injurious, and unsuited to the wants of the people. Already attention has been directed to this matter, as militating against the interests of the country, and if this is felt to be the case now, how much more will it be the case when the country has doubled or trebled in wealth and population ? Long ere that growth has been attained, it will have been found imperatively necessary that Canada should have a voice in the matters concerning her supreme legislation. The material well-being of the country would demand the requisite changes in the political system. However strong the ties of affection and sentiment may be, if these ties should become shackles, weighing heavily upon the nation, they must, in the course of time, be removed.

There is yet a third consideration which will exhibit the necessity for a proper share in the supreme legislation of the country as the Dominion grows in national importance. I allude to the right to confer naturalization upon foreigners, and to afford protection to them when abroad.

As matters stand at present, when a foreigner comes to settle in Canada, he becomes naturalized so far as Canada is concerned, that is to say, he obtains all the rights and privileges which his English or Canadian neighbour enjoys : he can vote at elections, is eligible for any civic or Parliamentary position ; is capable of holding any Government appointment, and is liable to military service in Canada—but he is *not a British subject*. Canada, being merely a colony, has no power to confer imperial citizenship upon foreigners settling in her country ; she has no power to pledge the protection of England to strangers who come to live in her territory. The consequence is, that our German settler, whenever he leaves Canadian territory, ceases to have any British national standing