

## CANADA AND U. S. A. AFTER THE WAR

By W. D. LIGHTHALL.

(Extract from New York "Times.")

The recent article on the views of that brilliant publicist, Professor Roland Y. Usher, in the New York Sunday "Times" headed "The War's Victor Will Defy U.S." is very surprising to Canadians, and I am sure will be equally so to every other thinking citizen of the British Empire. I do not know what would be the situation if Germany were victor, although I have full confidence that long before she could recover from her exhaustion sufficiently to strike the United States, the latter would have profited by the warnings of the present struggle and established an invincible preparation to meet the attack. That situation undoubtedly would be serious, but Canadians bet would go ten to nothing for the Americans, because we know that the American people are twice as smart, quite as martial, and five times as rich as Germany, and would be fortified by justice. What we know still better, however, is that in the event of the Allies winning, there could not possibly be a crisis between the United States and the British Empire. The first reason is that the Canadian people would not agree to the Empire entering such a contest, and without consent no such event would be possible. The old idea that the British Empire is ruled in London by war lords without any regard to the local interests and views of the great component peoples, is a delusion, like several other deductions from the outward forms of our democratic "empire." London entered the present war with the full support of all our self-governing nations, already pledged in case of the outbreak of the German menace, which had in fact been the subject of consultation for several years. Moreover, it was the British Isles themselves, and our central navy, that were directly endangered, and not an outlying part. But if, as Mr. Usher thinks possible, the "British," having become victors, were to even think of attacking the United States, the interest most deeply concerned would be that of Canada, and our opposition would undoubtedly prevent the conflict. I have no hesitation in laying down this rule: That the maintenance of peace and harmony along the 4,000 mile American frontier is the first and greatest principle of the external policy of Canada; and for reasons so obvious that they need scarcely be mentioned. Among them are not only repugnance to the bestial butcheries of war, but the community of institutions, the innumerable links of intercourse, the identity of language, the kinship of our races, and, in short, the family feeling and complete means of understanding between us. But I will go further and assert this second principle: That (through us) the greatest interest of the British Empire is, and will always increasingly be, the maintenance of peace and harmony along the same frontier.

The British Empire has here (as Josiah Strong once put it in a different connection) its "greatest future home" for the original stock. Statistics prove that Canada can ultimately maintain two-thirds of the figure of population which the United States will ultimately maintain. The American figure has been placed at 600,000,000 souls, and the Canadian at 400,000,000, but, whether a few millions more or less, the argument remains that Canada is destined to be the most populous and leading unit of the Empire. I would like to suggest to Americans, as reasonable, a third principle, namely: That, the greatest external interest of the United States is also the maintenance of peace and harmony along the same 4,000 mile frontier. The reasons in support need not here be argued, but they will readily suggest themselves. They may be boiled down into the query, "Where is there a greater?" But in further reply to Professor Usher's fear that Great Britain might attack the United States, it is well known, at least to us, that the leading principle of British diplomacy has long been to avoid unfriendly relations with our American kinsmen, and to heal the ancient useless breach made in 1775 by our own "Mad Kaiser." There is no trade rivalry big enough to disrupt this desire. The fleet of the British Empire has commanded the seas for a long time without any other attitude towards America except opportune assistance at times of need. To us the large strength of that fleet is vital because it is not for us a matter of mere trade protection, but protection of the very life of our family of ocean spread nations. It is in effect—and will for the future be far more so—a union of several national fleets, in what we might call a single great co-national fleet. What ought to exist between us and the American people is so complete a system of regular communications and arbitration as to exhibit a practical sample to mankind of the future and possible federation of man.

## SIMPLIFYING MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

A slavish desire on the part of the Fathers of the Republic to be consistent led them to embody principles of government in forms poorly calculated to express them; and an inordinate regard for the memory of the Founders has led their descendants to cling to those forms long after their uselessness had been demonstrated. The "check and balance" theory, as expressed in the National government, has not worked so well as to necessarily warrant its continuance in the several States, and certainly not in municipal governments; and had the people not ignored the fact that a different form of government was necessary to give expression to the will of a people scattered over a continent—where those in one part knew comparatively little of the affairs of those of other parts—from that of a city, town, or village, it might not have been necessary to wait until the system had utterly broken down, before attempting new experiments. Once that fact was realized, however, progress in municipal government began.

The commission form of government, supplemented by direct legislation in the form of the Initiative and Referendum, marked a decided advance in popular government; but there remained too much of the element of chance in securing the man of greatest efficiency for the management of municipal affairs. This chance is now reduced to the minimum by the employment of the business manager. The village board, or the board of commissioners in larger political units, with the business manager, gives to the people the benefit of the counsel of several minds, and the advantage of a single executive head. Under this system the voters are free to pass upon the character of the candidates for the board, a thing that they may properly judge; but the choice of the executive officer is left to the men of character on the board who have the opportunity to examine and choose an expert. It is the right of the voters to say whether or not a street should be paved, or a water system installed, but they are seldom qualified and rarely have a fitting opportunity to select the expert to perform the work.

The unsatisfactory condition of municipal government in the United States is due to our practice of putting complicated business interests into inexperienced hands; for municipal government in its last analysis is nothing but business. It is peculiar and difficult of solution only because the prevailing practice is to put it in the hands of men who have not devoted the necessary time and attention to prepare themselves for it. No man can afford to give this time and labor to prepare himself for the office of mayor, as he would for the management of a great mercantile establishment, for the reason that he can have no assurance that when he is prepared he will be chosen for the place. He can be mayor of his own city only, and the number of mayors chosen within his working life too limited to warrant any man's making the outlay. The business managership, however, restores the municipal executive department to the field of competition and emulation. Men who would not devote three months to a course in municipal government, in the hope of being chosen mayor, would give years to the preparation as a municipal manager, because he would be studying in the same spirit as the civil engineer, knowing that his talent would be as applicable in one municipality as in another; and the best natural talent could be devoted to this course since, like the civil engineer, success in one place would bring calls from other localities, until we should have many men of the rank of a Goethals, a Gorgas, or a Blue, who have demonstrated that social functions can be performed with the same efficiency as commercial activities when properly trained men are set at the job.

Too often our mayors are as the swallow that flitted in at one window of the king's banquet hall and out at the other, whereas the business manager, as a trained expert, may abide as long as he can be of service. Every line of human endeavor should have before it, so far as possible, the fullest scope for development; and behind it, the greatest incentive to progress. Such, it would seem, is the office of municipal manager; and it is an encouraging sign of the wholesomeness of American political life that so many cities, towns, and villages should be willing to demonstrate by practical application the truth of this principle. Dayton, Ohio, with its 125,000 population, as well as River Forest, Illinois, with its 3,600, and many cities in between, are putting the plan to the test; and it begins to look as though we had at last discovered a means of conducting public business as efficiently as private business.—"S. C.," in "The Public."