

tic altar; your neighbor to the east a Scandinavian, wonderfully adaptable to prairie conditions; across the creek a Galician; in the valley a Ruthenian; and back in the bush, a Doukhobor, clothed and in his right mind.

Do you not see that you are all of the British Empire they know, and that they will judge the Empire, and especially the heart of it, by your walk and conversation? There is a scriptural saying that applies to the situation, "Living epistles, known and read of all men." If you are a pretty poor epistle your neighbors will wonder how it is that the smart Ontario man who keeps a store in town, is willing to continue in political relations with you, relations which tie him more or less to Britain and Australia, to India and South Africa. If he finds that you are indifferent about your Imperial associations he will ask himself when vital political questions come up for voting—and his vote is as powerful as yours—why he should consider Canada as a part of the British Empire when he is told that he may vote so that his wheat will bring him more money, and his relations with the smart American across the border will become closer and closer. We do not sufficiently realize that, with regard to our fellow Canadian citizens who hold the balance of power in the West, we are in a peculiar sense the ambassadors of the Empire to them, more intimately so than Mr. Bryce is the British Ambassador to Washington. For they are of our political body even though they speak our language with the accent of Central Europe, and do not yet partake of our political soul.

No man who moves from one country to another in any part of the world, does so under such conditions of privilege and responsibility as you and I do when we come to Canada. It lies upon us, therefore, to take careful heed how we try to work out our political salvation in Canada, and though it is often true that there are two foolish people in the world—the fellow who gives advice and the man who takes it—I shall dare to offer a few suggestions that arise out of a fairly wide experience of Canada and Britain.

The first is, that you should allow no man or party to put a political label on you. If you have an Old Country label put it in the bottom of your trunk and forget it. Don't put a Canadian political label on yourself until you are good and ready, and then don't stick it on very tight.

Secondly, believe that party names do not mean the same things in Canada as they mean in Britain. Let me illustrate. There has recently been unpleasantness in Britain over the House of Lords. The Liberal party has clipped its wings, as an Irishman said the other day, to prevent it trampling upon Liberal legislation.

The complaint against the House of Lords was that it had become a Tory organization. When a Tory government