

There is no man, probably, in the British Empire, to whom it has not occurred, and upon whom it is not thrust with growing insistency, that the vital Imperial problem of the moment is a more efficient organization of all the assets of Empire, and this involves an accurate knowledge of our palpable weaknesses no less than a realization of the pressing need of a" our available strength. Without doubt we are losing the hardness that made the race of men that made the British Empire.

We are overwhelmed with the luxury of long and unquestioned success, and success is enervating, and we are losing the iron in our blood, and the initiative which has made our race what it is. We are taking too much for granted. We are saying to ourselves "Things always have been so, and, therefore, they always will be so." There are serious movements afoot in the Outer Empire that call for closer organization and a more efficient Imperial life. No close observer can fail to be aware of the presence in the Dominions, and, indeed, in Great Britain itself, of those widely spread centrifugal forces, which have been bequeathed to us by an age of individualism, and which are none the less real because they have not yet found a cogent voice. In the matter of what I might call real Imperial patriotism, also, we are taking too much for granted, but in addition to this there is something more dangerous yet in the apathy on the part of large numbers who academically assent to Imperialistic opinions, and every few weeks applaud the speakers at the Canadian Clubs. It is impossible for Great Britain to realize the extent to which the most of the people of the new self-governing states are absorbed in narrow and selfish tasks of their own muck-raking pursuits, and