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British Representative:
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FROM WEEK TO WEEK

"Spectator's" Discussion of Topics of Interest to Churchmen

THE establishment of a Canadian embassy at Washington ought to do something to ease the tension that seems perpetually to exist between the United States and Great Britain. The point of direct contact between the two countries is Canada, and when Canadian questions are handled by Canadians there ought to be a better opportunity for amicable understanding. This departure will mark a new start in international diplomacy, so far as this country is concerned, and everything will depend upon the choice of our representative at the American capital. It will never do to make it a haven of rest for wornout public men, no matter how faithfully they have served our Dominion. Men only of conspicuous ability and proven integrity should be chosen for such an important office. What is more, it is supremely important that the man chosen to establish the traditions of that office should be selected with exceptional care. He is beginning a new page in Canadian history, and that page must not be written at random. This is the beginning of our Canadian foreign policy, and it is to be hoped that that policy will be inaugurated and maintained as expressing the sentiments of Canadians as a whole, and not giving voice to a party only. To attain this end there will have to be a mutual exchange of confidence between government and opposition, so that changing authority at home will not mean an altered policy abroad. Integrity, continuity and steadfastness will in due time bring the reward of confidence, respect and influence.

Mr. MacIntyre's criticism of "Spectator's" comments on some aspects of the Woman's Auxiliary that have recently developed are interesting, forceful and to the point. He is of one opinion, "Spectator" is of another, and, presumably, the matter might be left in the hands of the jury composed of the readers of this journal. It may, however, be proper to carry the matter a little further. It is because "Spectator" has long looked upon the W.A. as probably the most consistent, most devoted and most helpful organization of the Church in Canada that he has ventured a warning when signs were outcropping that a more ambitious policy was receiving vigorous support. It took years for the W.A. to win the whole-hearted approval of some of our Bishops and clergy, but by its constancy and loyalty it may be assumed that no Anglican organization so fully shares the confidence of the Church to-day as does this splendid band of Churchwomen. That, of course, is a pledge that what is undertaken in the future is likely to commend itself in due time. There are, however, certain things that may possibly be seen as boding disaster, no matter how single-minded and devoted the advocates thereof may be. Human nature, within certain limits, is variable, but in a wider sense it can almost be said to be fixed. The old question suggests many things. "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" The extension of missionary work to include all that may be gathered together under the ample roof of "Social Service" brings us face to face with that ancient query. There is a large body of women members of the Church, too, who are quite keen about social work, but not in the W.A. missionary spirit. They openly deride the idea of fussing over the conversion of Jews, Turks, infidels and heretics. They make no secret of their contempt for those engaged in such enterprise. They

claim abounding interest in the widow and the orphan, the prisoner and the destitute at home, but that is as far as they will go. What then? Let the W.A. throw its doors wide open and take them in? The newcomers will work on at their chosen interests, the W.A. will carry on its work in foreign lands and mission dioceses, and then we will possess that beautiful symmetry of operation, the spiritual ministry to humanity, whether it be on the shores of Lake Ontario or the banks of the Ganges. The safety of this whole scheme lies in the control being retained by the W.A., and the maintenance of the present spirit therein. The difficulty lies in the fact that the ladies that are expected to complete the new organism are not of the humble and submissive type. They will not accept the position of a subordinate committee to be directed by a body for which they hitherto have had no use. They must be joint partners in the management of the whole policy, and the chances are that a new name will be one of their first demands. Is such a partnership possible without lowering the flag that has ridden the winds of adversity and success over the W.A. citadel for many years? Montreal has answered No. Ottawa has answered No. and "Spectator" agrees with them. It lies with those diocesan branches that have entered upon this new policy to prove by their success the wisdom of their departure. When that success is made manifest, then they will come to the Dominion convention with an inexorable argument, and they who have thought otherwise will sit in sackcloth and ashes.

It was reported in the daily press some time ago that the Pope had summoned the Bishops of Ireland to Rome to confer on the situation in Ireland. The despatch intimated that His Holiness was displeased with the number of murders that were taking place in that unfortunate island. It would be extremely interesting to know how many killings a week would be regarded at the Vatican as a reasonable number. If the object of the conclave is as represented, it is certainly thoughtful of the head of the Church to prescribe limits within which the faithful might operate in crime and still preserve their good standing in the ecclesiastical household. To the external observer it has always appeared that the Roman Bishops in Ireland could have stopped these murders if they had felt disposed, but they hardly expected to have Papal confirmation of their conjecture. The confessional is a sure means of keeping informed as to who is guilty of these outrages on humanity, and the denial of the mass to the perpetrators thereof and those who aid and abet them is an equally effective means of preventing the same. The responsibility, therefore, for the iniquitous crimes in Ireland lies largely at the door of the Roman Church. No voice is seriously raised in protest. No expression of horror at the bloody carnival of cowards operating in the dark is vouchsafed. The world ought to have these things plainly set before it, and statesmen in the southern republic ought to be reminded of the difficulties when they step out of their sphere to give England advice. "No European entanglements," they say, but they gleefully rush into Irish entanglements. In the meantime, a vigorous pressure upon the Church of Rome might do more to create an atmosphere suited to a reasonable settlement than all the arguments of statesmen and patriots. "Spectator."

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