

50th Anniversary of Confederation

Brings Messages on this and following pages from
Leading Canadians to The Western Home Monthly

From Sir William Peterson, K.C.M.G.

PRINCIPAL MCGILL UNIVERSITY

THE approach of the Fiftieth Birthday of Confederation finds Canada at a very grave crisis in her national destiny, and I am sure that the readers of "The Western Home Monthly" will join with me in the hope that she may be rightly guided on the path that lies before her. We want above everything else to win the war, or rather to help to win it. It does not seem to me that there is any need of a general election to prove that point. And we do not want any premature peace negotiations with such a faithless and immoral power as Germany has proved herself to be. If the Allies were to show any weakness now—which Heaven forbid!—they would have only themselves to thank for what might happen next. After an interval of rest and recuperation Germany is quite capable of starting another war, without even the form of a declaration, and with her fleet in a better position to do all-round mischief than it was—fortunately for the British Empire—in August, 1914.

There is still a small section of our people who have failed to realize that the moment when our Dominion became inevitably involved in the war was when the German Ambassador in London told Sir Edward Grey that while Germany did not wish to annex any part of the soil of France she would take the French colonies. If the French colonies at that time, why not some of the British possessions at the next turn of the wheel?

Against such aggression it is the strength of the British Navy that has been our shield and buckler, and our sure defence. And we should never cease to proclaim this fact, and to express our gratitude.

Now that the war has brought us closer together, we ought surely to embrace every method of keeping together. Union is strength. We need not fear, on the one hand, any serious impairment of our autonomy and independence. And when peace returns, we can show the world at large that the ideal which we mean to cherish of the "United States of the British Empire" is an ideal that implies, on the other hand, peace and progress for a large section of mankind, without prejudice to the rights of others. In the words which have just been used by Mr. H. G. Wells, "We want all our people to understand that our Empire is not a net about the world in which the progress of mankind is entangled, but a self-conscious political system, working side by side with the other democracies of the earth, preparing the way for and prepared to sacrifice and merge itself in a world confederation of free and equal peoples."

Stocktaking after Fifty Years of Confederation

By Prof. W. F. OSBORNE, CHAIRMAN OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

IT is eminently proper that the Canadian people should take full and formal cognizance of the completion of the first half century of our national existence. Not to do so would be to bear evidence to our own apathy and lack of imagination. And in these momentous days lack of imagination is tantamount to lack of capacity. To-day, more than ever, rightly considered, the man of imagination and vision is king. It may fairly be said that the only man who is capable to-day of measuring up to the exigencies of the hour is the man who is marked by an imaginativeness

which in other times might have been thought audacious or quixotic.

For one thing we should exalt, as we have not hitherto exalted, the memory of the Fathers of Confederation. How many of these do our children know even by name? How often does one hear them referred to on the public platform? How seldom emphasis is laid on the spiritual and heroic significance of the deliberations at Quebec, on the later meetings at Westminster, on the hushing of faction for the achievement of a great task, on the successful enactment of the statute that constitutes our fundamental law. The Americans

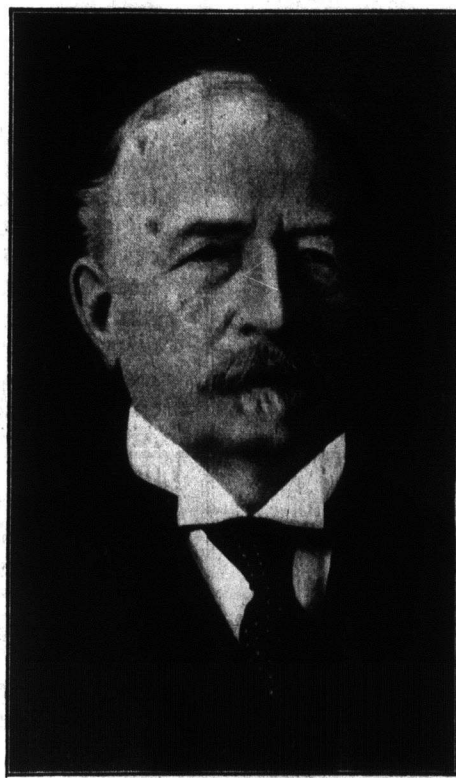
greatly surpass us here. They ring the changes constantly on the greatness of "the Fathers." The men who presided over their national origins were perhaps men of larger mental and spirited girth than those who presided over ours; though some might question that. But that does not excuse us from the duty of paying homage to our own. Ours were as big as the stage on which they moved fitted them to be. The work that fell to their hands they did, and that is all that could be expected of them. The Americans have two figures that dwarf all others in their history: Washington an English gentleman, and Lincoln (in the words of Lowell), the "first great American." But our group of founders was composed of very able men. Let us place them on the pedestal where they belong. One

might say to Canadians, in the words of Viviani to the Americans: "Lift up your heads—higher—ever higher—lift them as high as your flag."

Those men showed themselves capable of a fine detachment. They triumphed over provincialism, over parochialism even. They rose superior to faction. Take an instance or set of circumstances to-day that shows by implication the spirit of these men. The Maritime Provinces would undoubtedly be stronger if they were not divided into three. Together they represent one section of the nation. And yet how great would be the difficulty of bringing these three together. Similar difficulties, and on a sharper scale, faced the Fathers of Confederation; but they rose above them.

From Lord Shaughnessy

PRESIDENT C. P. R.



LORD SHAUGHNESSY

CONSTRUCTED as it was to serve a national purpose and form the necessary means of communication between the Eastern and Western Provinces of the new Dominion of Canada, the Canadian Pacific Railway has grown with the ideals of the Canadian people and has become a vital link in that greater Empire to which we all are so proud to belong. The prosperity which made possible the extension of our activities on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans has been bound up with our faith in the West, a faith which encouraged us to bring armies of settlers to the fertile prairies and to build up trade to and from the Orient and Australasia and the populous centres of Great Britain and Europe. That faith has been justified, and after fifty years of Federation, no part of the world is a greater magnet for the homebuilder than that area which gives your magazine its circulation and its name.