

with Turkey, for the benefit of the perfidious Germans, he ends by the offensive tirade which we all know against our unpaid, unrestored, and one loyal and unfailing partner in the late war for the liberty of Europe for the safety of our country, of our Empire and of mankind.

Happily, however, there have been great Foreign Ministers, and First Ministers now and then in nearly every age in the past. But unhappily we are far removed today from that race of statesmen, the Cannings, the Peels, the Palmerstones, the Gladstones, the Salisburys and Sir Edward Grey. The friendships they built up and the Empire they consolidated have lately been used and abused for the furtherance of petty ambitions and international financial interests. How that Empire has survived under such auspices and held together under such variable policy and such tortuous misgovernment is the miracle of miracles of modern times!

Now the French, on the other hand, says Northumberland, being a logical, an honest and a straight-forward people, have a foreign policy which is perfectly clear, intelligent, open and avowable. They tell the world, as they tell the enemy, and as they tell us exactly in their printed reply at this date, that what they desire is the enforcement of a solemn treaty. There is no repudiation with them, though Curzon uses the offensive word. But our policy has all the wavering vagueness of opportunism. No sooner do we subdue an enemy than we abandon our comrades in arms—abandon even the just claims of the Dominions—in order to lend a hand to the unpunished foe so that he may rise and prepare himself again for another onslaught upon all of us.

For it has been rather well said of us complacent Anglo-Saxons, that we are always prompt to forget an injury, no matter whether we suffer it or inflict it.

OUR OWN BLUNDERS

Now leaving aside those old scores which interested Mr. Ewart and his school of thought more than they do me—let us speak of actualities. In recent years have not our own Canadian leaders been much to blame for their subserviency. They have not protested or insisted enough. Have we not suffered, far more from the blunders of Federal, Provincial and Municipal policy than we ever did from Imperial policy?

Now I admit that in Foreign policy an Empire must speak as a unit. And it may be that we are not close enough to the centre of the world's affairs here nor yet sufficiently well informed to add anything more than our advice in that delicate field called Foreign Affairs.

As in the case of the Great War, and the Peace Treaty, it is to be feared, however, our own rulers here took too much for granted, both during hostilities and after. When we had once furnished that splendid and spontaneous offering of more than 640,000 men—one twelfth of our whole population, we had certainly done our part. It is quite certain that the Allies never expected, nor did they ever ask, this poor volunteer struggling Frontier State to contribute in excess of "its ability to pay" that self-imposed burden of nearly 5,000 million dollars, a drawback upon our progress and a millstone around the neck of the country, retarding its development for generations to come. But these blunders are our own. They are not those of London or of any other government. And yet they are more serious than any burden we ever suffered at other hands.

LOYALTY, NOT SUBSERVIENCY

Premier Hughes of Australia, was assuredly a very loyal Imperialist. But was he not somewhat justified in his bitter reproach, made recently before the Australian Club in London, to the effect that the outlying Dominions were launched into the war without consultation, and were involved in a signed peace which was not previously communicated by Lloyd George to the other premiers or their representatives at the Conference? When everything was settled, it is true, they

were called in. But it was simply to sign on the dotted line. And when a military member at Ottawa asked across the House what would have happened even if we had refused to sign, Sam Hughes, who sometimes had humour when he forgot his own importance, interjected—"Well, as the gallant member seems so fit, I suppose we should have to fight the war all over again."

The attitude of Premier Hughes is certainly more dignified and more loyal to the whole Empire than the rubber stamp attitude of tame submission adopted by our Newton Wesley Rowell and Sir Robert Borden. The former of these, Mr. Rowell, follows up his previous subservient and Franco-phobe policy in his paternal advice delivered in the Okanagan a few days ago. He tells us that, in his aggressive policy to France and his forgiving policy to Germany, we are all to stand solidly behind Lord Curzon and the Foreign Office. And if it should lead to war with France, our one true friend, then Newton Wesley and loyal Arthur would be all the better pleased. Just as they would have launched us gaily at the bidding of the same Curzon and Lloyd George against France and Turkey in the Near East. But the people of England were not so jingoistic nor so Franco-phobe as some of ours were. And so they promptly threw these war-makers out of office. Curzon alone has scrambled back. They will do the same to him a second time if he persists in his pro-Germanism in the interest of his international financiers.

THE USES OF ENGLAND

Let us consider here for a moment these impatient reproaches of my younger friends and Native Sons, and capacious critics against England and the Empire.

Britain with all her faults has her uses in the world. Nations, like men, have their virtues and their vices. Being made up of men they could not be otherwise. With regard to the recent errors of British Foreign Policy in so far as they affect Canada, or her other faithful ally, which is France, there is one consolation to be derived from these blunders of her leaders. And that is that they have probably no more mistakes now left to commit.

It has been well said by a studious British statesman and admirer of the French that if France did not exist Europe would have to create her. And so, if she had been destroyed

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