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## CANADA AND IMPERIALISM.

THE presence of Colonial contingents in South Africa fighting shoulder to shoulder with the veteran regiments of the British army in the cause of the empire marks an epoch in British history. In the case of Canada, as well as of Australia and New Zealand, this aid has been given voluntarily. Legal obligation did not exist, and the British Government was clothed with no power to compel colonial assistance. The controlling force has been a bond of sympathy and of loyalty to the motherland. Little doubt need be entertained that if a combination of foes should force upon Great Britain a struggle for national existence, Canada at least would put her last available man in the field, and would spend her last dollar in the defence of the mighty empire of which her territory forms no inconsiderable portion.

The devotion of Canada to the interests of the British empire is not entirely one of sentiment. Material interests also play a prominent part; for Great Britain is almost the exclusive market for Canada's food products, and furnishes a market for two-thirds of the total exports from the Dominion. Self-interest forbids that Canada should suffer this market to be destroyed or seriously curtailed.

As a result of their action in the present crisis in British affairs, Australia and Canada have suddenly challenged the attention of the world. Each country in itself possesses the area and resources of an empire. An intelligent comprehension of the vast extent and the potentialities of the Dominion is possessed by comparatively few men outside the boundaries of that country. It has an area of 3,618,000 square miles, five per cent less than that of the continent of Europe. The area of the United States, including Alaska, is 3,580,000. As exploration proceeds, and the character of the soil and climate of the Dominion, and the extent of its resources, are better known, the estimate of its importance rises. In 1888 the Canadian Senate appointed a committee to examine into the extent of the resources of the Mackenzie Basin and the country eastward to Hudson's Bay. The testimony of missionaries, Hudson Bay contractors, explorers, and others,