

THE NEW EMPIRE

The First of Several Articles in Which the Factors of Reconstruction,
Brought Into Activity by the War, Will be Discussed.

BY ARTHUR HAWKES

IT is remarkable that when the effect of the war on the future of the Empire is mentioned most of our excellent discussers seem to assume that it is mainly, if not entirely, a question of what part Canada shall play in settling in London the scope of foreign policy and questions of peace and war.

Where shall we be when the peace is discussed? There are visions of the Prime Ministers of Europe waiting for the advent of, say, a gentleman from Manitoba, before they seriously ponder the latest partition of Europe. It is good to nourish a healthy imagination, and to suppose that we shall have a representative in the conference, perhaps on terms with Russia, because we have put troops into the fight.

Sir George Perley's Demand.

Assume that, after the war, wherever the Foreign Secretary and the Premier and the Chancellor are gathered together there will be the representative of Canada, to advise as to what shall be done in foreign affairs, and especially in the pledging of the credit of the Treasury—we who have so efficiently borrowed from that treasury. Lovely realization of an Imperial dream!

It is so very simple, this calling into foreign counsel, of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland, South Africa. There will be such a foreign affairs contingent of the truly Imperial Cabinet that the whole parliamentary and governmental and cabinet system will be revised inside out.

A detail has been left out of all this gay picturing of the inter-Britannic glories that are to be.

The acting High Commissioner of Canada, without waiting for the end of the war, demands a place in the Foreign Office of the Empire, on the new ground that Canada, who had no

official say in the outturn of foreign policy six months ago, is putting men into the war, and therefore—well, therefore, and that's all there is to it.

In France, months before the Canadians could arrive, seventy-five thousand brown men were fighting for the defence of Canada against Teutonic subjugation. In East Africa, in Egypt and beyond the Persian Gulf brethren of these brown men were fighting in defence of the Empire. Two million more of their fellows were ready to march in the same great cause. Among the scraps of paper to which the Imperial hand itself was set is one which bears this reference to these same brown men, which "definitely and finally recognized the equality of status, rights, and of duties of the Indian subjects of His Majesty with the British subjects."

Real Parting of the Ways.

Have they also a right, or have they not, to be represented in the peace and in the foreign policies which may once more call them from India's sunny strand to fight with and for their fellow British subjects under the bleak hillsides of Flanders? If the valor of two hundred thousand wins for them a place where the results of their valor are counted, shall they be less free in the Empire than their comrades in arms? If they be on comrades' footing in the halls of peace, where the spirits of all the slain may look down on the reckoning, shall one say to the other on the Pacific coast, "Where I am ye may not come?"

Observe it well—it is easy to say that when the wounds shall have been staunched we must together decide how we shall keep the peace and how we shall make war. It is not so easy to say how it shall be arranged, and what the limitations of power shall be; and who