COSMOPOLITAN

by STEVAN D. KARON

ON THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

ears in Canada. Why this is so tions. Some were even Repubapart by its own flexibility. The is easily seen if one looks at this lics such as India and Ghana who death blow paradoxily was tolled organization's beginning. It was a did not recognize the Monarchy by the British government itself, creation of British idealists in the as the head of their government the author of this organization. early 20th century who dreamed but only as the traditional head As now with British memberjects of the British Crown fell un- Crown. der this spell blindly.

The very nature of the British Commonwealth shows the diffialliance nor an economic one. It is simply an organization for "cooperation". In this vagueness it finds flexibility so say its displans fell through.

The origins of the Commonwealth are hard to trace but the statute of Westminster of 1931 is usually phrased as its birth. In a time when Britain was undergoing a hard post-war depression and the rise of nationalism was meeting it head on, Britain had to give up its older prosperous colonies yet it needed them for its own survival. Therefore a very deceptive plan was dreamed up, to satisfy these two demands.

The older established and internally sovereign former colonies would receive a new name of Dominion hoping thereby to erase the name colony without giving away any power while at the same time binding them into a new "club" under the Crown.

Some people got carried away with this idea and its unrealistic potentials by drawing up plans for a "super" Government of all these Dominions and the mother country. Many similar idealistic plans were drawn up. Each time forgetting the great distances that separated these "colonies" bes "the march of time" which brought with it new members.

Webster says that "taut" means "tight". I guess I've been taut quite a bit in this university, after

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Until 1961, when the num- mocking of the free parliamenber of "new" members outnumb- tary system by elevating Dr. ered the older Dominions. Not Nkrumah to a vertual dictator.

Criticism of the British Com- only that but the "new" members These things can only occur in monwealth usually falls on deaf entered under very mild condi- an organization which is falling that it would be a "cure all" and of the Commonwealth. This sep- ship in the Common Market all bind all British colonies event- arated them from the "older" but signed, Britain will have new ually together with the mothermembers who had a common link allegiances and commitments.
country. Canadians as loyal subas loyal subjects of the British In this wake the Commonwealth will become defunct or com-One of the early strikes that pletely useless as even the British tolled the doom of this organiza- preferentials would be cut.

Viewing this record, which tion was precipitated by those culties it had to face. There was "new" members who proceeded omitted any mention of the Suez no certain plan this organization to evict an older loyal member crises and the perennial Indiawas to follow. It is not a military because of its internal policies. Pakistan dispute over the Kash-These members were unacquaint- mire area, it is disturbing to see ed with one of the original rights how a Canadian Prime Minister each Dominion had, to rule its could put so much emphasis in own internal affairs. And so the the Commonwealth. Instead of ciples. They had to adopt this Union of South Africa was oust-trying to find an organization excuse as their original idealistic ed. Yet one of these advocates, with a future that will benefit the Republic of Ghana, makes a Canada.

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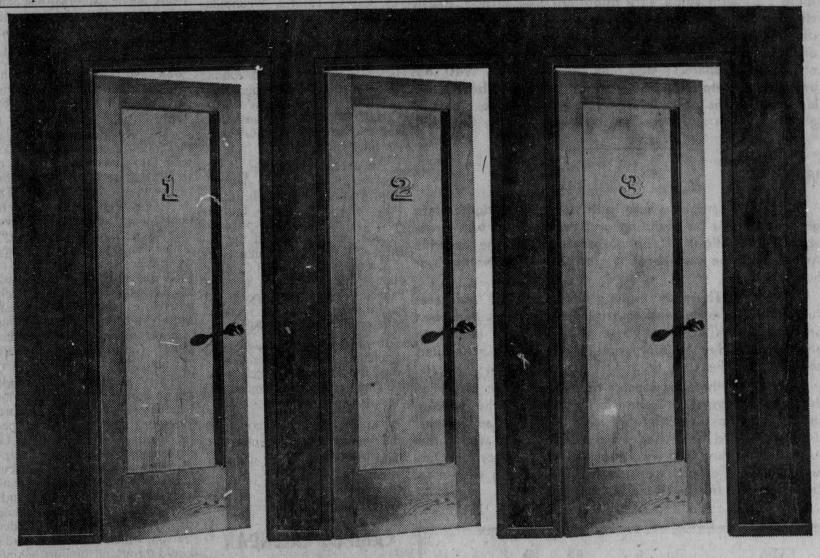
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