

ARTICLE NINETEEN

IN the end Geography governs; and Geography always governs in terms of the sea, since at the beginning the waters were gathered into one place. All history is merely a record of attempts to reach the ocean, and empires have endured only so long as they could occupy the advanced sea bases. When these were lost the nation perished. Persons interested in this powerful thesis will find it clearly displayed in Mr. Mackinder's new book. The Germans failed because of historical stupidity. They advanced upon Paris instead of upon Calais. They did not discern soon enough that England on her sea base was the real enemy. Full confession is now made in the memoirs which their generals and admirals are pouring from the press.

It is scarcely to be expected that those persons in Canada, who profess to be concerned about the future status of the country, should have a clearer view of this far end. They are content to dig at the foundations, to remove ornaments which they find offensive, to add excrescences; and none will be more naively astonished when they find the fabric coming down. The word "nation" is in their mouths. They do not know what a nation is. They think a nation can be fabricated in much the same way as a failing business concern is reorganized, and the original shareholders frozen out. They cannot understand that there are yet "loyalists" in the world, who are willing to take arms in their hands, or go out once more into the wilderness; or, if no wilderness remain, return to the homes which their fathers left.

A nation is like an army. An army must have a base, else it will perish in the air. When Canada went to war its base was in England, its source of supply even for boots and clothing, and for the very weapons in the hands of its soldiers. In times of peace the bases were, and are, in the United