

British, but also from the broader and more complex viewpoint of all the citizens of Canada and the Empire.

What is the British Empire? It is all very well to applaud the word; it is all very well to rejoice in the feeling of pride which the expression evokes in our minds; but really, have you ever seriously put that basic question to yourselves?

### WHAT IS THE BRITISH EMPIRE ?

It is no unity of Government, it is no unity of institutions, it is no unity of territory. It is, on the contrary, a very complex conglomeration of lands, of races, of institutions and governments.

You have, first of all, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the only sovereign portion of the British Empire, the only British community possessing and enjoying all the rights of British citizenship. In fact, the government and people of the British Isles own the rest of the Empire; they make the policy of the Empire; they decide, for the Empire, all questions of peace and war; they make and unmake all the international relations of the Empire.

Then, at a much lower stage of national development and political liberty, you have the self-governing colonies with their twenty odd millions of people, enjoying, within their respective territories, most of the rights and privileges of British citizenship, but deprived of all those rights and privileges the moment they step out from the three miles of sea water surrounding their portion of the Empire.

Then comes the mighty Empire of India, with its 315 million souls, with its forty different languages, codes of civil law, etc., possessed also by the people of Great Britain and Ireland, administered by one of the departments of the British government, over which the seven millions of people of Canada have no more to say than the inhabitants of any foreign land.

Finally, you have the numerous Crown Colonies and Protectorates, also the exclusive possession of the peo-