

OUR FUTURE IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE

A NATION IN A COMMONWEALTH OF BRITISH NATIONS

A BOOK under the title of "The New Era in Canada" is being given wide circulation throughout the Dominion. It is a collection of essays or articles by some fifteen individuals upon subjects of public interest.

Amongst the articles is one contributed by Mr. J. W. Dafoe, Managing Editor of the *Free Press* of this City, which proposes that the future of Canada and the other Dominions shall be that of independent states in an alliance under a common Crown.

The future of Canada in the British Empire is a matter that will appeal to the great majority of the readers of the book and to the world at large and more particularly to the people of Canada. I may be pardoned, therefore, if I offer a contribution to the discussion.

The following quotation from Mr. Dafoe's article seems to set forth concisely his ideal as to the future of the British Empire:—

Canada, a nation with *full sovereign powers*, to be linked in a perpetual alliance with the other British Nations on terms of equality *under a common Crown* with a common citizenship.

With reference to this quotation I desire to submit the following questions:—

1. What is meant by "a nation with full sovereign powers, etc., *under a common Crown?*"

So far as I know or can understand, the King (or the "Crown" in that sense) exercises no judicial or legislative power whatever. The "Crown" to which we all owe allegiance is the "Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland," the supreme governing Parliament of the British Empire, com-