

inevitably reacts against the strongest pressure brought to bear upon it.

The pressure from Britain is at an end. At least it has taken forms far less formidable in scope than those with which we were familiar 50, 40 or 30 years ago. British political power in the world picture has declined. There is a peculiarity about power. If Nature abhors a vacuum, so also do politics; and into the vacuum created by British weakness there has poured the vivid, dynamic, colorful, inexperienced force of American power. The United States, vigorously repudiating its old isolation, has asserted itself at last. If some of us do not particularly care for all the manifestations of that inevitable fact, at least let us remember that the withdrawal of American influence after World War I was deplored by all of us, even if it gave us the chance, sometimes too fully made use of, to blame our own shortcomings in world affairs upon the refusal of the United States to pull its weight. That is no longer true, and, after ten years of it, there are voices to be found complaining bitterly that the United States is not only pulling its weight, but throwing its weight around! Whether we like it or not, we are better off with it, than we would have been without it. We should, indeed, never stop thanking Providence that the United States is no longer isolationist.

But the effect of this sudden and violent transformation in American policy has had the effect on Canada which, in the light of history, I suppose, might well have been expected. It has stirred in us every deep instinct to which Canadians, of both the major races, have been accustomed to respond. Without ever being conscious of it, our forebears' memories of Montgomery and Arnold, of the War of 1812, of the raiding in the 1830's I have previously described to you, of the Fenian Raids, all swam back into some corner of our minds. And there were other, lesser, things too. There were the endless boundary disputes, the Aroostock war so-called, the endless pressures when the British Government negotiated our affairs for us, and we found ourselves more or less on the outside looking in, the fury over the Alaska Boundary award, and the whole series of disputes and difficulties over tariffs which have, so often in the past, meant so much to us, -- and which have so often, from our point of view, turned out so badly. We forget, at such moments, the many occasions when things turned out better. We remember with bitterness what we regard as unprovoked, unwarranted actions which have hurt us, or brought us to fear.

We therefore now keep a most watchful and sensitive eye on our big neighbor, and, if we overdo it sometimes, it's probably because psychologically, we can't help it. Much of it may be unnecessary. Much of it may be unfair. The fact remains that no relatively small nation can live cheek by jowl beside a big neighbor without developing these feelings; and one instance in which they are richly justified probably makes up for the next few when we are unduly suspicious.

The vigor, and sometimes the thoughtlessness, with which the United States presents its point of view, and makes its demands, are of course another factor in the situation. When these wishes and demands related only to Canadian-American questions, it was difficult enough. But