

AC901

P3

no. 1983

c. 2

THE APPEAL, AND WHY.

"An Appeal to the British-Born" was published in "The British News of Canada" before The Canadian National League came into existence. It is republished because it is thought that it expresses with some cogency, as it certainly does with sincere conviction, the natural attitude of a British-born citizen of Canada towards a critical period in Canadian-British history.

Everything that has happened since the Appeal was written in February has confirmed the views expressed in it. President Taft has clearly indicated the strength of the desire in the United States that the Reciprocity Agreement shall destroy all possibility of a commercial unity within the British Empire. In the United States there is no illusion as to the extent to which commercial and political control may be interchangeable terms. There is nothing in the condition of Canada to warrant the slightest acquiescence in that design. There is everything to encourage a development of the policy of inter-Canadian and inter-Imperial trade which Sir Wilfrid Laurier unanswerably advocated during the debates on the National Transcontinental and Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Legislation in 1903.

The forces which make or mar those political movements that are greater than the profoundest party machinations are always to be found far below the surface of clauses and schedules, and the written exchanges of bargaining emissaries. To me the Agreement proves that the time has come for Canada to choose, perhaps finally, between remaining in the orbit of the Empire and achieving first renown in the constellation of kindred British nations, and gravitating to the lesser glories of the Republic. That is a challenge to Canadian citizenship which merits an unmistakeable answer.

ARTHUR HAWKES.

TORONTO, June, 1911.

0 911275