

Through the Heart of Canada

periods—in the successive rule of Indian, French, and English, as its history falls into three divisions—the conquest of the country by England, the war of 1812-14, and the forming of Confederation in 1867, all epochal events.

Preceding Confederation there was no nine-province Dominion, no Greater Britain in the twentieth-century sense, no all-Canadian sentiment, no Empire spirit. The provinces by the Atlantic were looking askance at plans for federation, Upper and Lower Canada (as Ontario and Quebec were called) were antagonistic, Manitoba was not even a name, Saskatchewan and Alberta were in the womb of the future, and British Columbia was an isolated Pacific territory.

A vastly different country is the Canada of to-day. East and West are becoming one in national spirit and aims. The Rocky Mountains are no longer an impassable barrier between the plains of the prairie provinces and the plains of the Pacific coast. Halifax is interested in Victoria, Montreal in Vancouver, Toronto in Winnipeg. Confederation has done its work well; it has made of its union of provinces a continent-wide land that is growing in wealth and influence as it grows in years.