

THE FUTURE OF CANADA

the Canadian Confederation, thus as the phrase is "rounding-off Confederation." It is to be regretted that the negotiations carried on by Sir Mackenzie Bowell for the consummation of this union failed, and it is to be hoped that the negotiations now foreshadowed will be more successful. We must bear in mind that to Newfoundland belongs a strip of the coast of Labrador, extending from the Hudson Straits to the Straits of Belle Isle. The part of Labrador belonging to Newfoundland was formally described in 1876 in these words :

"All the coast of Labrador from the entrance to Hudson's Straits to a line to be drawn due north and south from Anse Sablon on said coast."

A glance at the map will indicate how disastrous it would be to allow the control of this strip of coast, which includes such harbors as Hamilton Inlet or of Newfoundland, to be permanently lost to Canada or the Empire. Canada must control the navigation of the St. Lawrence, that magnificent entrance to this continent, which it would not do if Newfoundland or Labrador were in alien hands.

In passing I may remark that in the event of Newfoundland becoming part of the Canadian Dominion, as was long ago recommended by Lord Durham, there would be permanent free trade between Canada and Newfoundland.

This is one of the cases in which all schools of thought admit that free trade is beneficial. The union would be more beneficial to Newfoundland than to Canada, but it is sufficient for us that it would be to the advantage of Canada.

UNITY OF BRITISH EMPIRE.

Some years ago the colonies were regarded as a source of weakness to the Empire, and the breaking-up of the Empire anticipated as both desirable and inevitable. There are few, if any, representatives of this school of thought among the responsible British public men of the present day.

It is sometimes erroneously claimed that Gladstone was an anti-Imperialist. There is no foundation for the charge that his policy aimed at getting rid of the colonies. On the contrary, he eloquently described the nobleness of the inheritance which had descended upon the British Empire, and the sacredness of the duty of maintaining it.

One of the most noticeable features of the magnificent fiscal controversy now being carried on in Great Britain is that both sides claim to be champions of the unity of the British Empire. The strongest arguments that Mr. Chamberlain uses are that his proposals tend towards the consolidation of the British Empire. The most powerful of his opponents, such as Lord Rosebery, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Morley, Mr. Haldane and Sir Edward Grey, equally recognize the paramount importance of Imperial unity. In one of his recent speeches Mr. Morley stated that, if any part of the Empire were attacked, England would expend the last shot in her locker in its defence.

As in England so in Canada, the forces that make for the unity of the British Empire have been greater than those that make for disintegration.