

PART II—IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

What the new departure—"the new Imperialism"—means for Canada, we have incidentally learned something in the course of this article. Further light is thrown upon it by what Mr. Chamberlain and his friends declare to be the advantages the Mother Country would gain. The principal of these may be stated as follows: That it will strengthen Britain's hold on the colonies and prevent disintegration; that the colonies will be required to share the cost of maintaining the Imperial army and navy; that it will be made obligatory on the colonies to take part in the wars of the Empire throughout the world; that it will secure "free trade within the Empire," and an "open door" in the colonies for British manufactures; that, in short, it will make the colonies more serviceable to the Empire for political, military and commercial purposes. And it is to obtain these great Imperial advantages that the colonies are to be attracted by a preference in the British markets, and the existing Monarchy changed into an Imperial federal Empire, which admittedly means a revolution in nearly all departments of the State, and especially in the relations of the colonies to the Motherland.

This is truly "a leap in the dark" for the British nation, and it is impossible to forecast, in the absence of details, all that it means for this Dominion. There are some vitally important changes, however, which any scheme of Imperial federation certainly involves for us, and the sooner every Canadian looks them squarely in the face the better will it be for all concerned.

The proposed federation would, in the first place, involve the break-up of our present happy colonial relations. Whatever may be its character, it must restrict the political and fiscal freedom we have heretofore enjoyed, and which has been and is justly regarded as the foundation stone of the unequalled success of the British colonial system. This would be a backward step for Canada, and the warm national sentiment now prevailing—the precious fruit of colonial freedom—which has so long and so strongly bound the Empire together, would be weakened, possibly destroyed, by the introduction of new constitutional enactments and legislative restraints as a sort of clamp to hold it together.

Our military position would be completely changed, and our burdens heavily increased. Both of our political parties recognize Canada's duty in this important matter, and notwithstanding the jibes and taunts of military jingoes like General Hutton, we have done for defensive purposes all that could reasonably be expected from a country of small population under like circumstances.

Our ordinary military expenditure has rapidly increased of late years, and is now nearly \$4,000,000 per annum, and it is incorrect to represent

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