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Special Articles

The Penitentiaries.

By J. W. MacMillan, D.D.

A Canadian Flax Industry.

By E. B. Biggar.

The Future Trend of Security Prices.

By W. W. Swanson.

Conditions in the West.

By E. Cora Hind.

Present Situation of the Canadian Cane Sugar Refineries.

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Do We Insist?

THE Toronto journals are having some discussion of the question of Empire organization. The Globe and the Star, while expressing hearty sympathy with anything that they regard as likely to strengthen the Empire, look with suspicion upon some recent utterances on the subject, and give voice to a fear that what is called Imperial organization may mean the surrender by Canada of some of the rights and privileges that are now enjoyed and valued. The Daily News sees no need of any such hesitation or reservation. It seems to assume that there are no grave difficulties in the way, and that we are all in a position now to come to a conclusion on this great question. Here is its statement of the situation:

"There are differences between the East and the West in Canada, as between Ontario and Quebec, but if we should allow ourselves to take account only of such differences Canada would break into fragments. We live in the hope that common sympathies and interests will prove greater than these differences. It is the same with a larger community like the British Empire. There may obviously be a divergence of interests or of policy between its many elements, but if we take account only of this divergence we cannot hope for any common action at all. On the other hand the interests and sympathies which we have in common are obviously greater than any present divergence—if we emphasize and cultivate these interests and sympathies, differences of view may never appear. For this reason the cultivation of common interests within such a vast society as the British Empire, becomes our first duty, and for this reason we must be concerned about its government and maintenance. *The present constitution, which permits British Ministers to commit the Dominions to war, may easily create differences. We insist, therefore, that it should be changed, and that a common Parliament and common Ministers be set up for the whole Empire, so that every citizen of the Empire will be represented.*"

That we should all endeavor to minimize our differences and broaden our grounds of common action is excellent doctrine to which all good citizens are willing to subscribe. The concluding sentences of the passage quoted raise important issues. Our contemporary appears to treat the question almost as one of mathematics. There are a great many people in the British Empire. Most of them have no direct voice in Imperial affairs. It is essential that our organization shall be one in which "every citizen of the Empire will be represented." Every citizen possesses, presumably, equal rights with his fellows, regardless of lo-

cality, race, color, creed or condition. What difficulty need there be, then, in establishing a Parliament in which every part of the Empire shall be represented?

But there are some people in the Empire who feel that it is necessary to look beyond the mathematics of the question. A common Parliament and common Ministers, such as are demanded by our Toronto contemporary, would be picturesque bodies, both figuratively and physically. Of the more than four hundred million people in the British Empire, about three hundred and fifty millions are colored. If the British Empire Parliament is to be as representative as one can wish, it will have seven colored members for every white member. Is there not room for a suspicion that in what our Toronto contemporary seems to regard as a present humiliating position, Canada's interests may have as good a chance of receiving consideration as they would have in the seven-to-one colored Parliament?

Shall we be told that these colored people need not be represented? Why are they not to be treated as British citizens? What good reason can be given for ignoring them in a Parliament which is to represent "every citizen of the Empire?" Of this large colored population about three hundred millions are natives of India or the descendants of Indian emigrants. On what principle are these people to be shut out of a new Imperial organization? India has been playing an heroic part in the present war. Without the stimulus of blood relationship which is present in Canada, Australia and elsewhere, the Indian princes and people have been giving freely of their men and their wealth in the service of the Empire. If there is to be a reorganization of the Empire to give every citizen representation, these Indians must be reckoned with. Under the present conditions, which our Toronto contemporary regards as so unsatisfactory, Canada has claimed and exercised a right to exclude His Majesty's subjects of Indian birth from this Dominion. Will Canada's power in this respect be increased or diminished by having us come under the authority of a Parliament in which, if every citizen of the Empire is to be represented, India will have nearly forty members for every Canadian member?

The population of Canada is a little less than one-fiftieth of that of the Empire. We could not in fairness claim more than one-fiftieth of the representation in the Grand Parliament. That is to say, if that Parliament were composed of two hundred members, Canada's representation would be four members. As to representation in the Ministry, Canada would have practically no claim at all. Only in an impossible Cabinet of fifty members could Canada with justice claim to have a Minister at all.

The statement that Canada insists on the