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Canadians and the Empire

Again and again in other months and years the notes that have appeared in this editorial page have emphasised our belief that the development of a national spirit in Canada should concurrently involve the strengthening of our imperial kinship in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

* * *

To the observer it is remarkable how many events and incidents come to have a bearing on this subject. First and foremost, the Canadian Club of Vancouver, at its annual meeting, had as speaker General Victor Odlum, who, in a well-thought-out and clearly delivered address on "Patriotism," expressed sentiments and convictions that it would be well for every Canadian—by birth or choice—to ponder. Though his family is in the fourth generation of native-born now, General Odlum, by inheritance, claimed kinship with the different races of the Homelands, and in stirring words maintained that Westminster Abbey, with all its history and associations, and Shakespeare and the wealth of literature handed down in the English language, were as much HIS as that of any other man born of British stock.

General Odlum's expression in that connection suggests and sums up one idea that ought to dominate the na-

tive-born of any Province or Dominion of the Empire, no less than those who, happening to be born in one country under the flag, find their work and homes in another. A true "family feeling," like a "fellow-feeling," should not only make us wondrous kind, but should make us realise that in these days there is not only enough land and opportunity in the Empire to go round, but that to ensure healthful natural development of some portions of that cosmopolitan British commonwealth—including much of Canada—a thorough awakening of many other members of that "family" in the Central Homelands is necessary.

* * *

What was true a generation ago in the Old Lands is no doubt still true under different conditions to-day: Thousands of men find themselves in a rut in the business or workaday world, and yet hesitate to cut adrift and face the initial hardships and uncertainties of a venture into a new life. And all the while there are countries under the British flag in which the development of natural resources is little more than begun, and possibilities of progress undreamed of "at home" await the workers who, with faith in

God and man, fare forth to these farther lands.

We are not advocating indiscriminate desertion of positions in England and Scotland; nor are we suggesting that men and families should emigrate without careful consideration and inquiry. But—

* * *

Because of its bearing on the subject, we think it pertinent to mention here Mr. Robert Watson's latest book, "Me—and Peter," just published by Thomas Allen, Toronto. Unlike former stories by Mr. Watson, this book is not a novel. It is obviously largely autobiographical, and we surmise it may have a larger sale overseas than in Canada. This is not the place to review the book, but we venture to suggest that if the story—supplemented by a note of its author's life and progress in Canada—should be circulated in the country of his origin, it might be of real service in helping to inspire many young men to decide for home- and Empire-building in one or other of the Dominions beyond the seas.

* * *

Still akin to this subject—if only because of the speaker's own related per-

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