

scattered areas which owe allegiance to the British Crown—bringing together all into a common partnership, sharing the responsibilities and dangers of the Empire, and participating in its glories. Such is its aim, and it is the proper time to consider its advantages, if any, and the difficulties which are inevitable. Can it be done? Should it be done? Is it for the common interest that it should be done?

Since Canada is the first and most important of the British Colonial possessions, it may be well to consider how the matter stands in relation to this particular country. It does not follow that the example of Canada will be adopted by all the other Colonies, but Canada's action, and the reasons which will influence it, are likely to have their weight all along the line. It is too early to form definite opinions or to make dogmatic statements. The most that can be done is to honestly look over the field and throw the utmost light upon the present situation, and thus open the way for intelligent deductions for the future.

There is probably no country in the world occupying a more anomalous position than Canada, and this is beginning to impress itself upon people generally. A country of national proportions, with an assured future, independent in its government—as independent, to all intents and purposes, as Great Britain itself—and yet a colony, a dependency unable to be recognised by, or treat with, any nation, not excepting her only neighbour, the United States. Such a condition of things obviously cannot last for ever—indeed, is not likely to last much longer. A portion of the Canadian people, chiefly the more intelligent and advanced thinkers, believe that the present position of the country is humiliating, and do not hesitate to say so, and give their reasons for it. They say that Canada ought not to accept all the advantages of the Empire without paying her share of the cost. But these do not represent the major part of the population. Notwithstanding that some Imperial Federation leagues have been formed in Canada, and some public discussions taken place in regard to our relations to the Empire, and many articles have appeared in the periodical publications, and even the daily papers, on the future of the country, the fact remains that the great majority of the people are still in favour of the *status quo*, and would be inclined to regard as radical and dangerous any suggestions in the way of change.

At first this would appear strange. The most natural thing in the world is to expect that the people of a country which had reached the position achieved by Canada would be turning their gravest attention to the problem of their future position and destiny. But a second thought will furnish many reasons why there should be no desire to disturb existing conditions. The present position of the Canadian people is essentially satisfactory. They enjoy the full ad-