

WHAT OF CANADA?

ally, first-hand acquaintance with Canadian conditions would promote good understanding.

In view of the peculiarly close relations that have existed between the people of Canada and those of the United States, it is confidently expected as well that this new step will have the desirable result of maintaining and strengthening the friendly relations and co-operation between the British Empire and the United States.

I have read many articles in the American press concerning this new movement and I have not yet seen one adverse comment—even those papers which approved the Senate's condition of accepting the Treaty that Canada should not be admitted on a par with Hayti, approved the project whereby Canada asserted her nationhood.

No one who *haeret in cortice*, who is bound by the letter, can understand five separate and free nations under one flag. It is the advantage and glory of an unwritten constitution that a course of evolution may proceed so as to revolutionize the original constitution without wrenching the external form. The British Empire as it exists today is a triumph of just such an evolution—no race but Anglo-Saxon-Celts could have produced it, none but English speaking peoples could understand it, love it, glory in it.

What can the United States ask in order to admit Canada into the category of nations? A reversion to the condition of Colony? We will not pay the price, we are not going back. A severance from the rest of the British world, an adoption of a new flag, a repudiation of the old? The price is too high, we will not pay it. Having that which is desired for another people, a government of our own choice, we stand fast. Not that England would strive to prevent one change if we desired it—for if tomorrow Canada decided to cut the painter, not a hand or a voice would be raised in England in protest.⁹ We are, and we are acknowledged to be masters of our own destiny. It may be indeed that the question will not again arise; if it does I would ten thousand times rather that no League of Nations should be formed than that one should be formed with Canada ex-

(9) The Right Honourable Bonar Law said in the British House of Commons, April, 1920, that no one failed to recognize that the connection of the Dominions with the Empire depended on themselves, and if any chose to break away there could be no attempt to force them to stay. Dominion Home Rule meant the right to decide their own destiny.—Press Report, Toronto World, April 30, 1920.

Union of Canada with the Empire is a **Canadian** question to be decided by **Canadians**.