

postpones again and again the reparation of social injustice within—is this blessed condition so attractive in all its features that Canadians can be expected to select it as their ideal, and to aspire to be admitted to that charmed circle and to join in that mad dance of wastefulness, and hunger, and death? Since they must choose an ideal to be striven towards and yearned for in the passing years, surely Canadians are beginning to feel that they had better choose something other and nobler than that, even though the way be longer and the task more tedious.

It is not alone a love of Britain, therefore, but a deep dissatisfaction with the merely “national” ideal itself, which is throwing, and will continue to throw, the very coldest of cold water upon any movement towards Canadian independence. The last “nation”, in the old sense, was born in 1783. It is certain that there will never be another. It is too late in the day.

Instead, also, of the mere love of autonomy, it is rather this same slowly developing dissatisfaction with the old “national” ideal which is throwing, and will continue to throw, a good deal of water, not so cold perhaps, but at least quite tepid, upon the movement called “Imperialism”. Because, mark you, Nationalism is still the very core of Imperialism, except that here it is the British “nationality” which is to be exalted.

It is surely about time that we turned away for a while from the question, what do you and I mean by the term when we say we favour “Imperialism” and asked rather what, by its origins and implications, the word “Imperialism” itself really signifies. Among His Majesty’s titles there is only one that speaks openly of Imperialism. He is called Emperor of India. He rules India, so far at least as India itself is concerned, by the sheer force of practically arbitrary power. There we have Imperialism pure and unalloyed. That is what Imperialism—an *imperium*—is. And no matter in what other connexion the term is used, there lurks within it some shade more or less pronounced of its real and original meaning.