

er horizons of the new lands but in the old home, is not old, but young; it is vigorous, prolific, stout-hearted, keen-brained. Consider how the handful of Britons who occupied the "little Isle set in the silver seas" less than three hundred years ago have peopled and taken possession of great areas in every continent. When England and Scotland became one country by the accession to the English throne of James of Scotland the island held only some five million souls. To-day the descendants of that sparse population number more than one hundred millions and they hold, in addition to the home land, the fairest stretches of the younger world—United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand; while their language is conquering the whole world. In trade and commerce the development has been equally marvelous. These are not signs of racial decrepitude.

But though the race is young the forms of life in England are antiquated; and those qualities of staunchness and reverence which count for so much in the British character, make change slow and difficult. The people have an instinct that they are out of touch with modern conditions and must therefore amend their ways; but when it comes to action they are hopelessly confused by the tug and haul of competing interests and the babel of conflicting voices. The result is that the whole nation is in a ferment. Issues of large import, like free trade, protection, disestablishment of the church, taxation of land values, government ownership of railways, insurance against non-employment, and national service are being fought out in the press and on the platform with almost unexampled earnestness. The "shaking-up" which accompanies this process is sharpening and brightening the national character. The solidity and insularity, once regarded as outstanding racial characteristics, are certainly not now apparent—the people are as keen-witted and responsive as their overseas kinsmen.

No doubt the national self-examination now in progress will result in progress and reform—in a readjustment of the environment which shapes and directs the life of the individual. The tendency must be towards the greater democratization of the nation. The patriarchal regimentation of society with its parallels in business, buttressed and upheld as it is by customs and traditions, many of them admirable in themselves, must give way to conditions under which the inequalities, inevitable to human society, will be the product of varying talents rather than the accidents of birth and fortune. There is a steady evolution towards this end and it is being forwarded quite as much by business and social necessities as by political agitation.

There is a vague feeling, not unknown in Canada, that the growth of democracy in Great Britain means a corresponding loss of the Imperial spirit, the implication being that there is a natural and exclusive relation between Imperialism and an aristocratic state of society. To concede the point

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What are the objective of the future? We are of defence; being phase. The time, in a c from these di are compelled in readiness i the Empire, v is not to cru Empires of A Rome, because a spirit unkno They lived for for the subje classes and n time, before t of change an Empire to en endure. It mu enlightened d the cause of of humanity. ed, the Empr ing affection the British p some far off Anglo-Saxond

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