

their Imperialism less evident, the fact should not be surprising. Let it be remembered that though they possess so many virtues in common with the majority, they are still French and not English.

"Put yourself in his place" is often a good rule. Let us think of a possible situation. If Montcalm's forces instead of Wolfe's had triumphed on the Plains of Abraham at Quebec, if Canada had remained under the French flag, if on the concluding of peace a large portion of a defeated English army had elected to remain in Canada and live under the French flag, what would have been their attitude and that of their descendants? They would, no doubt, have been good citizens. They would have frankly accepted the new order of things. They would have been loyal to the flag of the country. They would have kept the faith which they pledged to the constitution under which they lived. But it is safe to say that they would have been a people separate in their character and temperament from the majority around them. In a Roman Catholic country, they would have remained Protestant. In a French country, they would have remained English. One may well doubt whether they would have been a whit more disposed to be submerged by the French majority than the French Canadians are to-day to be submerged by or blended with the English majority in the Dominion.

A little reflection of this kind may enable some English Canadians to understand that it is, after all, only natural that the French Canadians shall, to a large extent, regard themselves as a separate people and think and act on lines which are not the same as those usually followed by the English Canadians.

The ever-present and ever-to-be present Quebec problem has always needed a wise handling. Fortunately it has not received such an opportunity that offered for the promotion of unity were thrust aside. For the service of party ends movements designed to enlist the sympathy of French Canadians with a sane Imperialism were strangled. The old problem was brought forward again in acute form. The seeds of so-called Nationalism were widely sown, with the encouragement and assistance of men from whom the country had a right to look for better things. Why should anybody be surprised by the harvest that has come?

### The Control of Bond Issues

WHAT threatens to be a serious conflict on a constitutional question has arisen between the Government of the Dominion and that of the Province of Quebec respecting the right of the former to control the issue of securities, including those of the Provincial Governments and of the Municipalities. With a view to the conservation of the financial resources of the country for the war services and for the purposes of the Dominion, an Order-in-Council was lately passed at Ottawa, under the wide powers of the Defence of the Realm Act, providing that no bonds or other securities should be issued without the consent of the Dominion Minister of Finance. The Government of Quebec claim that this Order is unconstitutional, so far as it relates to Provincial and Municipal securities, inasmuch as these are entirely matters coming under Provincial authority. The Dominion Order, we are told, was passed on the advice of the Minister of Justice. On the other hand the Attorney-General of Quebec has advised that the order is unconstitutional. The legal advisers of both Governments are lawyers of good standing, whose opinion on any legal question

cannot be lightly set aside. There is room for a dispute which, if it continue, can be settled only by a decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in England.

The powers assumed the Federal Government in the Defence of the Realm Act were necessarily very large. Parliament practically delegated to the Governor-in-Council authority to enact laws by Order-in-Council of almost any character that might be deemed necessary or useful for the prosecution of the war. It is claimed that a measure for preventing the issue of bonds or other securities that would absorb available capital is a war measure, coming within the scope of the Defence of the Realm Act. There may be little doubt that if Parliament itself possesses the power to enact a measure restricting the issue of the securities it also had the power to delegate its authority to the Governor-in-Council. But is it safe to start with the assumption that Parliament itself had such a power? There was a tendency in the Federal Government, in the early years of Confederation, to regard the Provincial Legislatures as bodies subordinate to the Parliament and Government at Ottawa, and to assume a paternal authority over them. Keenly fought constitutional battles, in the days of Sir John Macdonald and Sir Oliver Mowat, exploded that conception of the relation between Ottawa and the Provincial capitals. The Provinces, no less than the Dominion, derive their authority from the written law of the British North America Act, and it has been well established that—subject only to the power of disallowance, which may be exercised within certain limitations—the Provincial Governments and Legislatures are, within the sphere laid down, entirely independent of Ottawa. The issue of Provincial Government bonds is entirely a Provincial matter. The Municipalities are the creatures of the Provincial, not the Federal, authority. The Federal Parliament could not by any enactment of its own provide for an issue of bonds chargeable upon the Province, nor could it provide for the issue of securities chargeable upon any Municipality. Of this there can hardly be a doubt. If the Federal Parliament itself has no such power, it cannot give the power to the Governor-in-Council. And if the Federal Parliament could not, by its own direct legislation or by the delegation of power to the Governor-in-Council, authorize the issue of a Provincial or Municipal bond, could it in either way forbid the issue of such a security? Does not the absence of power to do a thing imply also the absence of power to forbid the doing of it? On much less ground than is found here great cases have been built up, which have engaged the attention of lawyers and judges for long periods.

It is a pity that the matter has to be considered from a strictly legal standpoint. It would have been wiser if, before adopting the Order purporting to restrict the freedom of the Provincial Governments and the Municipalities subordinate to them, the Ottawa Government had put itself in communication with the Provincial authorities and sought their co-operation and support in a measure that evidently was designed for a good purpose.

Whatever may be the ultimate decision on the constitutional question in dispute, the Dominion Order will for the present prevail to prevent the issue of Provincial or Municipal securities in the ordinary money-markets. The Quebec Government might be able to persuade its own people that securities issued in defiance of the Dominion Order are lawful and sound. But outside investors, whatever might be their impression of the matter, will not be willing to invest in securities the validity of which is so seriously challenged.

### What the Empire Fights For

HERE has not been from the beginning of the war down to the present any room for reasonable doubt as to the objects of the British Empire in resisting the attacks of Germany and the other Central Powers, but since Germany has systematically misrepresented those objects it was well that Mr. Lloyd George should, in his speech to the labor delegates on Saturday, set forth the mind of the British people in the very plainest terms. That he appreciated the importance of his utterances at that moment is evident from the pains he took, before speaking, to communicate with Mr. Asquith, Viscount Grey and other leaders of opinion, so that his words might be accepted, not as those of a party leader, but as those of the nation of which he is the head. The Premier has given to the world a studied statement of Britain's aim, so clearly and forcibly expressed that nobody can have any excuse for misunderstanding. Britain stands now as she did in August, 1914, for the sanctity of treaties, for the rights of small nations, for liberty to the German people to seek any "place in the sun" that they can win on the paths of peace, for resistance to the German effort to rule the world by the sword, for the restoration of the territories wrested by Germany from the weak nations, for restitution, reparation and adequate security for the peace of the world in the years to come.

### The Cedars of Lebanon

ALTHOUGH the Turks have been in possession of the Holy Land for centuries and indulged in all kinds of atrocities whenever the notion seized them, it remained for the Germans to show what real Vandalism was like. It has just been announced that the Cedars of Lebanon, famous in Scripture and almost regarded as sacred trees, have been ruthlessly destroyed by the Germans. We all know the Germans' record in Belgium and France, where historic monuments, cathedrals, churches, shrines, libraries, and anything else that came in their way were ruthlessly destroyed. None of these things had any military value, but the Germans are true vandals and destroy for the pleasure they get out of it.

Palestine has been the centre of wars at intervals for thousands of years, for many hundreds being under the rule of the Turks. Despite the fact that army after army has crossed and recrossed the country the famous Cedars of Lebanon remained unharmed until the Germans got in their fine work. The grove consisted of some 400 trees, said to be the oldest trees in the world. They were situated on a small plateau at an altitude of some 6,000 ft. above the sea, enclosed by a stone wall for the purpose of protecting them from sheep and goats. The beauty of the trees lay in their wide spread limbs, covering circles 200 to 300 ft., the girth of the largest tree being over 50 ft. Experts declare that some of these trees were in existence when King Solomon built his temple at Jerusalem, when he dispatched 70,000 hewers and 3,000 overseers to cut the wood for his famous building. But Solomon spared the Cedars of Lebanon, as did the Assyrians, Romans, Persians, Babylonians, Greeks, Arabs, Saracens, Crusaders, and even the Turks. It remained for the gentle cultured Germans to ruthlessly destroy what is almost sacred property, not only to Christians throughout the world, but to Moslems as well. Germany truly is full of kultur!