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A PLUM PUDDING EMPIRE.

The British Empire is a mystery. It has never been defined. It has no co-ordinating constitution. Henri Bourassa would say that no such thing exists. John S. Ewart *has* said so. These gentlemen being lawyers and somewhat indisposed to a union of the British race, even for purposes of defence, demand a codification of terms on a "scrap of paper"; otherwise the British Empire may not be.

Champions of the Imperial attitude say that sentiment, spirit, patriotism cannot be codified into vulgar words. On the football fields of Great Britain opposing teams often play without the services of a referee, because the animating spirit of the players rises superior to the written code of rules. Let the animating spirit be annihilated and the football rules will scarcely keep the players within proper bounds. Sentiment rules the world. "Laws are made to be broken."

Civil Servants of King George are members of a great Imperial family, which is located territorily in the seven universal seas. The formation of this so-called ephemeral empire has been the work of centuries, not unaccompanied by acts of uproarious depredation, such as are peculiar to the lusty periods of intoxicating youth. The romantic and heroic era of the Empire, its "battles, sieges, fortunes," will provide the Homer and the Virgil of future ages with the subjects of many a soul-stirring melodious theme. Arriving at a serene age at this date in history, British influence stands for civil and religious liberty, for the widest toleration of individual opinion, for the absolute autonomy of the groups of component states, and for the encouragement under a voluntary system of the arts of human development.

The British Empire has never been ex-

plained. Curious as it may seem, it has remained for a voice in a foreign country to speak the word. The editor of a newspaper in the United States of America has solved the riddle. The name of the newspaper is the "Republic," of St. Louis. The editor of the "Republic" is a psychologist, and has earned the gratitude of all those who serve the Crown and of all other devoted British subjects. *The Civilian* is indebted to the "Wide World," a publication of the John Dougall & Son firm, Montreal, for the opportunity to reproduce, for the benefit of the public service, the following solution of the riddle, "What is the British Empire?":—

"Whenever Germany and France, with their highly centralized and logically wrought out governments, have contemplated the fabric known as the British Empire they have smiled smiles of disdain.

"If ever there was an instance of 'muddling along' through decades and even centuries, taking things for granted, avoiding issues, extemporizing expedients, and working always for the object immediately in view, with scant reference to any principle of outward consistency, it is supplied by the history of the making of the British Empire. This is a strange gathering together of Crown Colonies, Dominions, Protectorates, a Commonwealth, Dependencies—and India. India is directly ruled by the Crown. Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man are governed under their own laws, but certain officials are appointed by the Crown. Canada and Australia are both self-governing, but the Senators in Canada are appointed by the Governor General, while those of Australia are elected. There is a Secretary of State for India in the King's