

Canada and the Empire

THE vexed question of Canada's ultimate place in the Empire or the world at large has been given a highly illuminative consideration by Mr. C. A. Magrath, from Medicine Hat, who before several Canadian Clubs has delivered an address, since presented in the form of a small book. Mr. Magrath frankly avows that he is an Imperialist. He sees no future for Canada as an independent nation. He says frankly: "Canada must remain an integral part of the British Empire, or become part and parcel of the United States of America."

He recognizes the tendency towards Pan-Americanism represented by the movement of population across the 49th parallel. He admits that Canada must continue to let in the United States immigrant; that it is easier for the American to come in than for any other. He claims also that from the half-million annual increase of population in Great Britain, this country is likely to

advance was made at 8 a.m. on March 9. Marks were awarded for thoroughness of scouting en route, keeping up lateral communication, comfort in bivouacing, greatest penetration of area from starting point, and driving in enemy's "screen."

The Ottawa party made 22 miles the first day, and bivouaced at 6 p.m. under cover in dense underbrush. The Brockville party advanced to Spencerville, about 17 miles. Both parties moved out two hours before sunrise, and came in contact at 8 o'clock on the morning of March 10, with the result that the Brockville team was defeated with the loss of their transport and five scouts who were ambushed at different points on the line, which at that portion of the area was four and one half miles wide. The Ottawa party lost one man, and were declared the winners.

Though the temperature was only four below zero, the rifle oil clogged the mechanism of the carbines so that in a number of cases the weapons could neither be loaded nor fired owing to the



Men Who Proved the Value of Using Snowshoes as "Cavalry Screen" in Winter Campaigning.

get no more than one in three by immigration. Therefrom arises the question: "How much maternal sentiment can England have for a country depending for most of its growth upon a cosmopolitan immigration? Can Great Britain continue to take a deep interest in a country populated so largely from other European or even Asiatic countries?"

On the other hand, what is cosmopolitan Canada's real relation to England? Not a mere sentimental tie; but a bond based on mutual interchange of both commodities and people. The Atlantic route is as economic for trade purposes as the equally long and more expensive line of our transcontinental railways from Rockies to Atlantic seaboard. If business does not knot Nova Scotia to British Columbia by railway connection, how can sentiment hold together Confederation? And if trade does not knot the Empire, how can sentiment alone stop its disintegration? Mr. Magrath believes in keeping the Empire practically together by trade development and great schemes of modern quick transportation. He believes in welding it intellectually by means of some form of colonial representation in an Imperial Parliament; just what he is not prepared to say, though he makes some very intelligent suggestions.

In fact, Mr. Magrath bit off a very large chunk when he tackled this problem at all. That he has succeeded so admirably is because he has a good constructive brain and a high sense of Canadian and Imperial citizenship.

Snowshoe Cavalry

TWO parties of Canadian military officers engaged in a novel tactical exercise between Ottawa and Prescott on March 9th and 10th. The parties were commanded respectively by Lieut.-Col. Morrison, D.S.O., of Ottawa, and Lieut.-Col. Buell, of Brockville. The idea was to test the possibility of using snowshoes as a "cavalry screen" for forces operating in winter.

The manoeuvre area was 52 miles in length, and varied from four to eight miles in width. Each party of seven hauled its blankets, cooking utensils, and two days' rations on a toboggan. The

cold. It was estimated that the Ottawa soldiers, who penetrated furthest into the "enemy's" area, travelled about 40 miles in 24 hours.

Equitable Taxation

(Continued from page 7.)

Columbia, have followed the lead. Calgary, Edmonton, and Regina have all made a beginning. And Winnipeg has, according to a press despatch, only a few days since unanimously declared for the exemption of improvements from taxation. The government of British Columbia has just received the report of a commission, appointed some time since, which declares in favour of further concentration of taxation upon land values. The Albertan Government moves somewhat faster, the Hon. Mr. Sifton having introduced a bill making the system obligatory (but by the Vancouver method, gradually and carefully) in the Province of Alberta. Across the line in Washington and Oregon, the same condition prevails. Seattle, always jealous of Vancouver, is impatient to apply the stimulus which has proved so effective in the case of the rival city. And Portland, Oregon, is the centre of a state-wide agitation with similar aim.

These Western men are not faddists. If they are radicals, they are probably not aware of it. They are plain, hard-headed, sensible business men.

It has been said, however, that conditions are so entirely different as between the West and the East, that what may be a simple matter for them, may be a difficult undertaking for us.

But a moment's reflection will show that this difference is in degree only, not in kind. It is like the difference between a simple and a severe case of indigestion.

We have piled up so many more millions in land value than they, and correspondingly, the economic pressure is greater with us than with them. This difference, therefore, is not one of conditions, strictly speaking, but of varying economic pressure under certain

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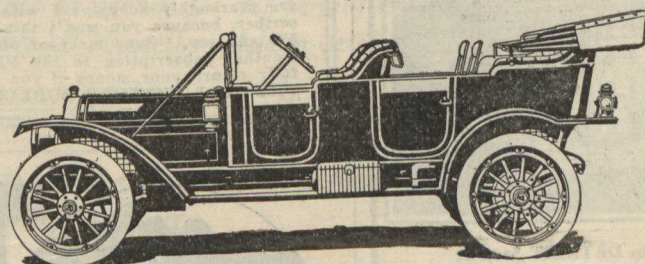
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