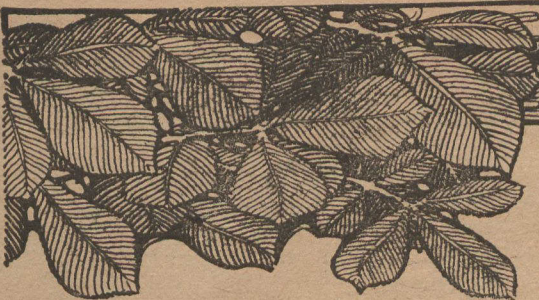




great and lasting friendship which united these two statesmen. The political reverses of the one were an occasion for the other to extend a helping hand to the unfortunate friend, and it is a spectacle full of precious teaching to us and to our children that was given to us by the electors of York when they elected Lafontaine at the request of Baldwin, and by those of Rimouski when they elected Baldwin at the request of Lafontaine. And this Confederation whose fiftieth anniversary we are so happy to celebrate, is it not also the common work of the public men of Ontario and Quebec? Sir Charles Tupper admitted, but a short time before his death, that without Cartier and without Macdonald Confederation would have been impossible.

In the heritage which has come down to us from former generations, nothing lasting and durable has been effected, preserved and embellished without the joint effort of your public men and of ours, and without the friendship which united them. This is the great thought inspired by the event which we are now about to celebrate, and it is with this idea in mind and in heart that I fraternally extend a hand to all the population of Ontario, to whom I wish, not only for the next fifty years, but for all time to come, an even larger measure of happiness and prosperity than that which they have had in the past.

Manitoba's Message

Hon. Sir James Aikins

(Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba.)

THOUGH the name "Manitoba" suggests close relationship with the spirit world, this central Province, constituted in July, 1870, did not, like Minerva, spring full armed from the brow of Jupiter. It had mortal beginnings in the two preceding centuries which gave it character and strength. Hudson, in 1610, found its gateway from the sea; a little later Radisson, a French fur-trader from Three Rivers, discovered its inland, and with business wrongs unredressed by France told of its richness to Prince Rupert, hence the incorporation, in 1670, of "The Governor and Company of Adventurers trading into Hudson's Bay," and the grant of all this western land to that Company who held it British for 200 years. Explored by another French-Canadian, La Verandrye, who built forts in it, including Fort Rouge, in 1735, now in the heart of Winnipeg. Traded over in the century following by French and English, and fought for between them by land and sea. Taken possession of in 1812 for agriculture and peaceful pursuits by the Selkirk settlers, who journeyed from the Bay up its waters to the Assiniboine. Given English law by the Council of Assiniboia, composed of representatives of those settlers and of the Hudson's Bay Company. And so it was through adversities prepared for its destiny—a British Province, the strong middle link in the Dominion chain.

What vision and hope and faith possessed the makers of Confederation, those prophetic patriots, when for £300,000 they purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company the land of this western country and made provision in the B. N. A. Act for its admission into the Union! When thus admitted, Manitoba adopted the law of England of July, 1870, patterned its school and municipal system after those of Eastern Canada, and on this British foundation

it is building a Canadian superstructure suited to its own requirements. Vast numbers of its citizens are children of the foreign born or foreign born themselves, not English in speech, not British-Canadian in sentiment and ideals. Nevertheless, Manitoba is resolutely moving to attain its goal, an enlightened people united in action, in thought and in language to express it, thus strong in itself it will aid in creating that oneness of all Canada so essential to both national progress and power.

Keep Canada Together

Baron Shaughnessy

IN a country of such distances as Canada, neighbourliness is the quality most difficult to achieve, but most to be desired—the quality which enables the settler in British Columbia to understand and sympathize with the problems of the manufacturer in Eastern Canada, or of the French-Canadian habitant three thousand miles away.

The fifty years of Confederation have been fifty years of growing intercourse between East and West, but we still have much to learn of each other. In a time of crisis such as the present, it is our first duty to overlook differences of creed, of local interest, and of origin, and remember only that we are Canadian citizens of a great Empire which has taken up the cause of freedom against the aggression of a military caste. We must temper our criticism of each other's apparent shortcomings and devote our whole energies to the triumph of freedom and to constructive national effort.

It is only by such broadminded and single-hearted action that we can take a high place in the history of the world. A national publication such as the Canadian Courier, which deals with Canadian questions in a spirit of tolerance, and, at the same time, with patriotic sincerity, does vital service in unifying Canadian sentiment and in helping to realize the high ideal aimed at by the Fathers of Confederation.

Service and Suffrage

Bliss Carman

(Canadian Poet.)

New Canaan, Conn.

11 June, 1917.

Editor, Canadian Courier:

MY DEAR SIR,—In celebrating the semi-centennial of Confederation, it seems to me that nothing is more important than to keep our eyes steadily fixed on the present. We have a past to be proud of. It can take care of itself in history. In the future lie hope, ambition, achievement. But Canada's need is a present need. Canada's choice is to be made now.

It is not entirely misleading to talk of the unity of a people, which is united for accepting all the benefits of civil liberty and civilization, but is not united in service for the safeguarding of those benefits.

I believe that anything less than universal service, that is, universal military service whenever the nation is in danger, is only a relic of that easy time in which we were raised, under the guardianship of the English navy and the English army.

I believe that anything less than universal service, established as a permanent institution in our national life, is unmanly, unfair, and fatal to the sound growth of a self-governing people. It should be laid down as an axiom for all time that among free peoples service, and

suffrage are inseparable. If a man will not serve, neither should he vote. Is there any reason under God's heaven why the brave and generous should perish in order that the soft and greedy may fatten in peace?

Canada is honoured in the world to-day as only great nations are ever honoured, for her high-hearted valour and constancy in holding to her ideals and traditions. Who gave her this enviable place among the free peoples of the earth, by the side of heroic Belgium and glorious France? The men who answered the call to arms, who had the vision to see the instant danger to freedom, and the will to respond without hesitation. Yes, and the fathers and mothers and wives and sisters and sweethearts of these men, who had the courage to bid them farewell with a cheer and a word of love from aching but unconquerable hearts.

This is the Canada of the past. What of the Canada of the future? Will she be less noble, less worthy of esteem among nations and affection among her children? It is for us to answer. Her coming years wait on our decision. A momentous destiny lies in our hands.

It was said by one of America's greatest men in a critical hour of her history that the Union could not remain half slave and half free. It is just as true to-day that no country can remain half willing to serve and half unwilling. Canadians, I think, are a people with an exceptional pride of race, and with a national character that is never indifferent to the deeper and finer obligations of life. We were bred to a severe sense of duty and devotion and private honour. Now, in these days of tremendous stress, I believe that our most obvious duty lies in adopting the principle of universal military service and training as a part of our social system. I believe it is necessary not only in the present crisis, but in order to insure an honourable future for our coming generations, if Canada is to continue to play her part without reproach among the nations.

One's Own Country

Sir Edmund Walker, C.V.O.

(President Canadian Bank of Commerce.)

AS the boys and girls leave our schools and universities and enter upon the problems of life, they are apt to turn their eyes away from their own country and to seek in dreams of older lands the romance and the varied aspects of civilization which too often in school they have been taught to look for only there. We have been striving for fifty years to gradually teach Canadians that the histories of New France, of the British settlements in Nova Scotia, of the American colonists, who, as United Empire Loyalists, swarmed into Upper Canada, of the hardy Scots who, as fur traders, opened our West, and of the English who set up a lone outpost on Vancouver Island, are all parts of the history of our own Canada. Perhaps now that St. Julien, Festubert, Courcellette, the Somme and Vimy Ridge have made the name of Canada mean something so clearly that history for centuries cannot forget, our boys and girls may realize that from first to last of the white man's life in the northern half of North America there has been a glorious procession of events and that romance, so dear to youth, is here just now and has been here for generations if we but direct our minds to our own country.

To know this country, its mountains, its prairies, its lakes and rivers, its countless miles of happy rolling land fitted for the highest types of agriculture, to know its people with their varied problems and their differing views, is a duty and a privilege which should appeal to every young Canadian. We have an enormous

