

But even greater than this pulp industry is the manufacture of iron and steel—since this industry is more important than any other. Up to the present time there have been three great iron productive regions—the Luxemburg District in Germany, the Middlesborough District in England, with Sheffield as its centre, and the Pittsburg District in the United States. In iron and steel, as in so many other great commercial and manufacturing industries, Great Britain held for many years the avowed supremacy. But times are changing. About three years ago the announcement was received with great rejoicing in New York that Great Britain had at last been surpassed in the production of pig-iron. The news was too true, and the three years that have since elapsed have only served to increase the lead of the Americans. Whether they shall hold their proud position depends upon Canada. Some weeks ago Mr. A. J. Moxham, General Manager of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, of Sydney, Cape Breton, addressed an audience in this city, and the revelations he made were briefly these: That so far as known Cape Breton is the only district in the world possessing iron ore, coal and limestone, the three elements necessary for the production of pig-iron; that these three minerals exist there in almost endless supply, and of the very best quality; and more than this, his company have invested there \$20,000,000, and are, even now, turning out the best steel in the world, and are placing it on the market at a cost of \$6 per ton less than the Pittsburg manufacturers. And to use his own words, "Canada, alone, does not realize the grand control which she holds of the steel industry of the future." Nor is the industry in Canada confined to Cape Breton. Even at our own doors we hear the hum of development. At Midland, the Canada Iron and Furnace Company, and at Collingwood, the Cramp Steel Company of Ontario have established large smelting works, in these two towns alone, employing immediately 3,000 men. The Clergue Syndicate has also commenced the operations of great iron interests, and as Mr. Clergue says: "These are but examples which should inspire like efforts at a thousand other waterfalls between Halifax and Vancouver."

Nor is this all. To meet these great industries, to join them together, and to work hand in hand with them, Canada is to have what is always necessary in the development of a country—increased facilities for transportation. Work has already been commenced on the "Canadian Northern"—a railroad which shall run from Fort William on our great lakes to Fort Simpson on the Pacific Coast, thus making another great chain across the continent. This road, which will be laid about 400 miles north of the C.P.R., will run through what is acknowledged to be no longer "the frozen north," but the greatest single wheat-producing area in the world. The Clergue Company has also under construction two railroads, one of which shall pierce through the forests of New Ontario to a new shipping centre on James Bay. By the enterprise of this company, too, a line of steamships have been built which are laden at the ports on our great lakes, and proceed direct to the European markets without changing cargo. And so on, instance after instance might be given of the many advances which are to be seen on every side. But these industries, which I have named, linked together by rail and water, though they are but the birth of what is to be, are sufficient to tell us that the silent but mighty tides of transformation have already begun to flow, and urged on by the energy and integrity of her sons, Canada has launched forth into a period of unparalled prosperity.

But with this great development, with this hum of industry resounding through our land, Canada needs some-

thing more. She needs a market for her productions—a market upon which she can depend—and the largest and best market in the world, as well as the most natural for her, is our own great Empire. How many reasons are given to-day, reasons which are every hour growing in their significance, for a closer union of the British people! The most powerful force among the great nations is this spirit of expansion and unity, and while we have in our Empire a collection of great communities, and while we hold the strategic points around the globe, if we would maintain our position we must go farther—we must organize and consolidate our interests. Such a consolidation will mean a very great deal to Canada. For our commercial interests, for the development of our great resources we need British sympathy and British capital. For our political interests, that we may have a voice in the government of the Empire; for our defence, that we may be assured of peace and protection, and underlying all these material interests, buried in an affection which lies too deep for argument or discussion, because of the love which we bear toward the mother land, and to our brothers across the seas, Canada should seek to strengthen every tie which binds the Empire.

The time was when such a union was considered an impossibility, but to-day a different note is heard. It is the note of a Pacific cable, which not only unites British territories around the world, but symbolizes the truer union of British hearts and British interests. There are some mighty forces at work to-day. Greater knowledge, closer sympathy, the abandonment of ancient prejudices, and the birth of new enthusiasms, all these have already come to pass, and standing to-day upon practical measures, such as the imperial penny postage, our own preferential tariff, and greater than all else—the blood of our brothers and our sons shed in an Empire's cause, rising upon such a foothold to heights never before attained, we peer into the years not so very far away, and see the little England of to-day lost in the Greater Britain of to-morrow—with our own Dominion a powerful and growing force in the greatest empire which the world has ever seen.

But we must not rest here. For John Bright has said that true greatness does not depend upon an empire's territory, neither does it lie hidden in nature's wealth. And so the greatness of our country does not lie solely in the development of great industries, nor does it lie in any bond that binds our empire, but it rests deeper upon a principle through which alone both of these are possible—it is the principle of truth. We welcome progress as it comes.

"It is meet that changes should control  
Our being, lest we rest in ease."

But as we weave in the changes of succeeding years, let us preserve pure and unstained the principles of right and liberty which have come down to us, and as we evolve from the old into the new, ever growing and expanding, let us reach upward, and work out in the highest type of national life, that righteousness which alone "exalteth a nation."

It is here as citizens that every one of must play our part. Canada, our country, calls upon us to act. Are we ready to respond? Shall we not prove her worthy of a high position in our great Empire, and among the nations of the earth? And taking a broad outlook of the great issues involved, shall we not build upon the opportunities of to-day, a future laden with ever-brightening glory for our Dominion, and ever-widening blessing for all mankind?

R. J. YOUNGE, '02.