

CANADA AND THE EMPIRE

The strength of a nation depends upon the kind of men and women it breeds. If other countries are to a large extent to do the breeding for Canada, then Canadians should take a deep interest in their own immigration problems. And these problems have a bearing on another question, that of the future of Canada. The discussion of them is worthy the efforts of our best citizenship, even if those making the attempt are unable to bring forward anything very original. This must be my excuse for having recently addressed some Canadian Clubs on "Canada and the Empire."

To-day Canada is an integral part of the British Empire. Where will she be to-morrow? Aye, and how will to-morrow find that Empire? The earth in its diurnal motions has set a pace which the civilized world is savagely trying to emulate. More happens in one minute now than in a month a century ago. Do we ever stop to contemplate what a collision to-day between nations may mean?

When we realize the rapidly growing burdens of the taxpayer, especially in Europe, for militarism, we must know the outcome will be one of two things—a pause in the mad race for military supremacy, or, for some nations, bankruptcy, with war or without war. No doubt, to avoid the ravages of war it is necessary to carry insurance in the shape of a fighting force. The needs of the present time are very great in that respect, and the taxpayer of the British Isles may be unable to put on sufficient insurance to impress other European nations with the view that it will be dangerous to interfere with Britain. If the British Empire as a whole will take action, wisely and promptly, in this matter of insurance, then, though the cost may be temporarily heavy, yet such a course would go far to end the present fruitless and unhappy struggle.

Let us hope that the day is not far distant when