

Canada, Crown and Commonwealth

By THOMAS GUERIN.

On March 20th, the question of Canada's relation to the Mother Country through the ties of the British North America Act was raised in the House of Commons by Mr. J. S. Woods, the member for Winnipeg Centre. The ulterior motives which prompted Mr. Woods' motion were but thinly veiled, nevertheless, the members of the House of Commons are destined to hear more on this topic, probably through more disinterested motives.

The status of Canada has been discussed on many occasions, it has been the happy hunting ground for many political theorists. It has been used to serve the purposes of Imperialists, Nationalists and Autonomists alike. Each has dissected it, and found in it matter to conform with his particular political bias.

The rising of the British Commonwealth of Nations has to a great extent disorganized many of the accepted theories of Canada's status, and rendered obsolete many opinions which had become regarded as facts. The vital question to-day is not that of Canada's relationship to the Mother Country, but that of the relationship existing between the free Nations which form the British Commonwealth.

To establish the relative ties that bind together the component Nations of the British Commonwealth is a task which might well frighten the most temerarious. The British Empire is an evolution. It set forth its way, a slow moving caterpillar. It passed through the stages of its growth and change till it burst upon the Twentieth Century as a butterfly under its wings the magic word "Commonwealth." The King has used the term.

In order that the feeling of adolescence which was permeating the young countries might not be shattered by the weighty chains of Empire, the lighter bonds of Commonwealth were imposed.

The evolution has come so gradually that the state of Commonwealth membership has slipped unnoticed from our national life. The King's names of the British Commonwealth have scarcely realized the change which has come over them, but have continued the even tenor of their way oblivious of their political manumission.

The significance of the term "Commonwealth" appears to have been overlooked. A few theorize over it and draw from it conclusions to confirm their own political views. The true significance of the word is "Wealth of the People." The Romans called it "Res Publica," but that might mean "public." The King has used the term "Commonwealth," and he can do no wrong.

Whoever invented the term seems to have played a shabby trick on the hard-Imperialists. To have substituted a Res Publica for an Empire was, to say the least, taking a great chance; but what is the difference in name when the substance is the same?

Imperialists may quote the British North America Act to prove that Canada is still a colony. By it, they establish that she is bound by laws to Downing Street, yet, Canada is freer than India—and India is an Empire.

The chains which bind together the British Nations have this long history. They still exist, but their usefulness is gone. In their place there is the silken web spun by the bonds of common interest and common loyalty.

Recently in England members of the Radical wing of the Labour Party had become imbued with the doctrines of Internationalism, who were unable to realize the reasons which their indiscretions caused, openly spoke of the prospect of abolishing the Crown and Monarchy, and substituting a "modern" or more "democratic" form of administration. These people little judgment unfortunately imposed that Great Britain is the de facto factor in matters of this kind.

They would dethrone the King and set up a republic in his stead without any regard for the consequences to other sister Nations who form the Commonwealth. Even if the people of England and Scotland were unanimous in favour of such a change, what allegiance would any Indian, Australian, or even Irish owe to some blatant opportunist might be chosen or proclaimed President of Britain? If such a change of affairs should ever take place—and some Englishmen do hope for it—Britain herself would have to withdraw from the Commonwealth, and return to a lonely isolation of a fifth rate power. The Commonwealth would continue to grow and prosper, its selfsame King, domiciled in its Capital.

His dream of Proletariat rule over the British Empire materialize, what right would he have to choose the one who head the former Empire? Such a change of things would be most illogical.

These radicals do not seem to realize that the British Commonwealth is not even an English Power. It is neither a Christian Power, nor a "white" Power—the vast majority of its subjects are of dark complexion, and the overwhelming religion is that of Islam.

In the Commonwealth should develop republican tendencies, the component parts would have the democratic right of jointly choosing the one to preside over them. The prerogative of choice would certainly not belong to the inhabitants of Britain. The citizens of India would have his voice in the selecting, as well as the man from Canada. The inhabitant of Zululand would be co-equal with his British brother. It is doubtful if even the British Radical Labour element would relish the sight of a "President" of the British Republic newly arrived from Central Africa, Hong Kong or Calcutta established in Buckingham Palace directing the destinies of the former far-flung Empire. Yet, one condition entails the other: in the brotherhood of Republican Democracy. There is no reason why the Caliphate of the Mohammedan world should be in Bagdad, Cairo or Angora when London is the centre of the Islamic Empire, and when it might well adorn the shoulders of the one who presides over the destinies of that Empire.

It requires an enthusiastic democrat ever to picture the British Commonwealth ruled by other than a Royal Crown. Crowns may no longer be worn in many countries, yet, they are the very life of others. In lands where people are sorely lacking in the bonds of a common interest, the cementing of a common loyalty is necessary to bind them together. This is the case with the British Commonwealth. Outside of the bonds of common citizenship, Canada has little in common with India, New Zealand and Rhodesia are as far apart as the poles. Yet, they are all closely held together by one strong tie, the bond of loyalty to a common king.

The British North America Act was the instrument which united the Provinces of North America. It was the seal which was placed on a mutual

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agreement, and it defined the powers which the new Dominion might exercise at that time. It is broad enough to allow of liberal interpretation. When it was drafted, no British or Canadian statesman ever dreamed of a Canadian Minister to Washington or of a Canadian Plenipotentiary signing a treaty with a foreign Power. It has gone through the evolution of adolescence, and still remains the certificate of Canada's liberty.

The Island of Britain is mistress of her own destinies, but she is not the mistress of the British Commonwealth. The politicians of England may talk for England, but the same moral obligation rests upon them as rests upon the smallest Country in the Commonwealth; to do nothing that could in any way injure the cohesion of the whole.

The Crown alone is the tie which binds together the sister Nations. The common interests are not great enough to hold together the British Family without the bond of common loyalty.

To-day the free Nations of the British Commonwealth from the arch upon rests Justice and Liberty. The keystone of that arch is the King. Without that stone, the arch must fall, and ruin will be where glory stood.—The Listening Post.

Holy Father's

Health is Good

SAYS CARDINAL MUNDELEIN IN CORRECTING UNTRUTHFUL REPORT.

ROME—Reports to the effect that the Pope is in poor health were controverted in an interview, given to the N.C.W.C. News Service by Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago after he had had a special audience with the Holy Father.

"Anyone who says that the Pope is suffering and tired, is saying something that is untrue," the Cardinal said. "I met the Pope when he had just returned from an hour and a half walk in the Vatican Gardens. He was fresh and vigorous, and spoke with youthful energy, precision and clearness, and with greatest kindness."

Further discussing his audience with the Pope, Cardinal Mundelein said: "When, about twenty years ago, I was received by Pius X., I had the deepest impression of that Pope's kindness, and I believed it would not be possible to receive a similar impression again. Now, however, that impression has been surpassed by the extraordinary kind welcome by Pius XI."

Currents That

Send Ships Ashore

Hitherto unsuspected facts about ocean currents, knowledge of which may prevent many shipwrecks along our coasts, have been brought to light in recent investigations by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, according to Lt.-Com. G. T. Rude, Chief of the Division of Tides and Currents of that bureau. Says Science Service's Daily Service News Bulletin (Washington): "Contrary to the belief of mariners, a local wind creates a current setting not in its own direction, but in a direction about fifteen degrees to the right of the wind on the Pacific coast and about twenty degrees to the right on the Atlantic Coast, a long series of observations have shown. The importance of this, Commander Rude explained, lies in the fact that a wind blowing parallel with the coast produces a current which may tend to set a coastwise vessel on shore. For example, a vessel bound up the Pacific coast with a following 60-mile wind will overrun her log, due to wind-driven current alone, by one and one-tenth knots per hour, and be set in toward the land fifteen degrees on the average to the right of the wind direction. While from Ekman's theory a deflection to the right in the northern hemisphere is to be expected from theoretical considerations, due to the earth's rotation on its axis, it is modified along the coasts by the configuration of the bottom friction, and the form of the coastline. Therefore, while a general law may be given of the general current produced by any given wind velocity, observations are necessary at intervals along the coast, particularly well inshore, to determine the actual velocities for that particular locality. On sailing lines for coastwise navigation, however, the general law will hold with sufficient accuracy for practical results within five to twenty miles offshore. It has been found," Commander Rude said, "that the velocity of the wind-driven current varies fairly proportionately with the wind velocity, and is about two per cent. in knots of the wind velocity in miles per hour on the Pacific coast, and one and a half per cent. on the Atlantic coast. In practice, however, it is necessary to take into consideration the combination of this wind-driven current with the periodic tidal current, the direction of which changes constantly in a rotary movement. The velocities of this type of current vary with the changing phases of the moon on the Atlantic coast, while on the Pacific coast the principal variation in velocity is due to inequalities

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brought about by the declination of the moon."

It Has Happened Before

STUART ENGLAND HAD OUR PROBLEMS.

Miss Mary Coate's entertaining book, "Social Life in Stuart England" proves that there is nothing new in our social troubles of to-day. They were all familiar to our forefathers under the Stuarts. Take unemployment:

A modern authority estimates the number of men thrown out of employment by enclosures from 1455 to 1637 at 34,000, and he considers the proportion small out of a total population of about 3,000,000, but if the number was small, the bitterness was great and widespread.

Or take housing? Shortage of cottages was another very real grievance, for, in spite of frequent proclamations from the State, many landlords refused to repair their cottages. Shortage of houses and low wages helped to perpetuate the patriarchal system by which the farmer boarded the unmarried men and maids in his employ.

Or, again, take the neglect of the men "broke in our wars":

As a contemporary declares, the case of maimed and destitute soldiers was hard: "Men that have ventured their limbs in our behalf, . . . are thus required, when they come home to live by some labour in their natural country, every man sayeth, 'We will not be troubled with their service.'"

Miss Coate's book may be warmly recommended to all. It has some excellent illustrations, and is a work of real scholarship and research.

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New Relief System

The names of several hundred families seeking relief have been registered by the Employment Bureau within the week. Under the new system for relieving destitution, Inspector Peet and Sergeant Nugent have been given charge of investigating the cases. Relief will be given in the form of groceries through the Public Charities Department.

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