

## THE FUTURE OF CANADA

While technically the control of the foreign relations of the Empire, including those of Canada, is vested in the Crown, the Crown acting in such matters on the advice of the Imperial Government, who are responsible to the Imperial Parliament and not to Canada, it must be borne in mind that attention has practically been paid to the views of Canada in most instances in which Canadian interests are involved.

The treaty of Washington was made subject to the approval of the Canadian Parliament.

The Blaine-Bond treaty between Newfoundland and the United States, containing terms very prejudicial to Canadian interests, was vetoed by the Imperial Government at the instance of Canada.

The German and Belgian treaties, which stood in the way of preferential trade arrangements between the various parts of the British Empire, were denounced in response to the request of Canada.

On the International Commission, still existing, to settle questions between Canada and the United States, all the Commissioners except one (the late Lord Hershell) were Canadians.

These expedients, however, must be regarded as temporary makeshifts. A permanent solution of the problem must be found which will give Canada an efficient and effective voice in the control of the foreign relations of the Empire in which she is specially interested.

## INDEPENDENCE.

In the past some few enthusiastic Canadians advocated Canadian independence as the solution of all such difficulties. It is now clear that this was an empty and idle dream. Canada as an independent nation now or in the near future would only enjoy such rights as more powerful nations would permit. In other words, we would hold our independence on the sufferance of others. That would be a sham and not a real independence, an utterly intolerable position. Even in Toronto life and property must be protected. Even here we cannot yet dispense with the police. The world has not yet reached such a state of civilization that a country, situated as Canada is, could allow itself to dispense with the means of defence. A careful study of the history of Columbia and Panama, of Mexico, Texas and California must dampen the ardour of those who advocate Canadian independence, unless, indeed, they advocate it as a step towards the incorporation of the Canadian provinces and territories into the United States.

## BRITISH CONNECTION VERSUS ANNEXATION.

The only real alternatives for Canada are incorporation into the United States and British connection. Before a Canadian audience I shall not attempt to argue which of these alternatives we should accept, for as a people Canadians have determined that Canada shall ever remain an integral portion of the British Empire.