

## Newfoundland's Attitude to Canada

BY REV. F. R. MATTHEWS, B.A., ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

THE attitude of Newfoundland to Canada in the past, politically and commercially speaking, has been one of independence. It is well known that at times there has been a feeling that it would be nice to round off the Dominion by including Newfoundland in the Confederation. Statesmen in both countries have been in favor of this. Newfoundland has never been satisfied with the offer made from Ottawa, and in recent years the whole question has lain dormant. When, however, the question has been raised intense opposition has been shown to the mere mention of Confederation on the part of the people.

The present attitude to the whole question is one of independence. Every election this "bugbear" is trotted out by political opponents, each trying to blame the other of either secretly conniving or assuming a policy that would ultimately mean Confederation. Sometimes one party has been named, sometimes another. Thinking people are, however, disgusted with the attempt to stampede the electorate with this time-worn canard.

Why this opposition? The question is wholly one of direct taxation on the part of the average individual. The commercial classes are opposed on the ground of competition in all lines of trade and manufactures. The Newfoundlanders have been only used to indirect taxation and hates the very thought of any form of direct taxation. For its wealth, Newfoundland is more

The future attitude it would be hard to prognosticate. Confederation must come some time. When it comes it will be a great benefit to Newfoundland, and Newfoundland herself will be a valuable asset to the Dominion. At present the country is prosperous in proportion, just as prosperous as the Dominion and as well governed. No country can be more recuperative in face of past disasters on land and on sea. The fisheries up to the present are the great industry of the country, and in their way are unsurpassed.

Ministers, teachers, medical men and the thinking classes generally are open Confederates. The great bulk of the people are intensely opposed. Still there is a continual leavening process. It is generally thought that both political parties are favorable, on condition that the terms were favorable.

The people are being educated. Many go to the Sydneys for work, and elsewhere. Our best sons and daughters are continually leaving us. Religiously, we are drawing nearer; the Roman Catholics, the Presbyterians, the Methodists and others are federated. The whole banking system is in the hands of Canadian banks. Our sons and daughters are going to Canada instead of to England for their higher education, and in many other directions we are drawing nearer. Canada, in some of her industries, is depending on us—notably in the steel industry of Sydney and the East Atlantic fisheries. More and more we are depending on Canada for our food and manufactured products. Probably the new generation will be ready for the question to be opened again and we hope with success, and we are assured with great benefit to both countries.

of this broad and growing Dominion, Prince Edward Island must, of necessity, have some place, great or small, in the nationhood of the country of which she forms a provincial unit. Nature, by reason of restricted area, geographical position, and geographical formation, precludes this "Garden Province" from occupying any considerable place in respect of population, wealth of natural resources or industrial enterprises, apart from agriculture. The place we occupy, in view of these conditions, must, therefore, ever seem insignificant in comparison with the immensely larger and more advantageously situated sister provinces.

But the highest wealth does not bear the dollar sign, and mere numbers cannot adequately represent either influence or character. The place we occupy will, therefore, be one wherein the latter forces rather than the former operate on the national life. As viewed from this point of view, the "Garden of the Gulf" may claim a place of comparative equality in the life of our young and growing nation.

May our place not be similar to that of the tuning fork in the hands of the man who tunes the grand piano? With this insignificant instrument he finds the tone and brings harmony out of the complicated strings beneath the keyboard. This instrument, though almost indiscernible in his hand, is, nevertheless, indispensable to his work. This figure must be interpreted on moral lines. Our high morality, our comparative absence of crimes, and our better sentiments, crystallized into law, notably respecting Prohibition, already places us in the van of the Canadian Provinces as touching the higher civilization, and to such an extent as to attract attention from abroad. May it not be then in high ideals of morality and advanced civilization for the nation's good that we, like the little tuning fork, may set the tone for the great symphonies of Canada's national life?

Again, may our place not be similar to that of the bee in the well-kept farmstead? How important is the place filled by the little colony of bees beneath the orchard blossoms in the economy of the farm? Their functions are two-fold. They go far afield to gather nectar for themselves and others, but in doing so they multiply the fruitfulness of the country over which they pass a hundred-fold. Thus in enriching themselves they enrich the whole country. This, to some extent, must be the place and function of Prince Edward Island in Canada's national life. We already have a much denser population than any other Province, and our provincial hive is constantly swarming. Natives of Prince Edward Island are found in every State of the American Union and in every Province of Canada. Many more have gone forth than remain. Happily, those who now go generally find homes in other Canadian Provinces. While they go to gather the riches of the land for themselves, they fertilize and bless many a distant province where their lots are cast. The wealth of their mind, their habits of thrift and industry, and the moral qualities, generally speaking, of their life and character, cannot help but prove a blessing to the land wherein they dwell. During the last four years no less than one hundred and sixty school teachers have migrated from Prince Edward Island to Western Canada, and this exodus must of necessity continue. If, then, we can fill the functions in our national life of the bee and the bee, it will be

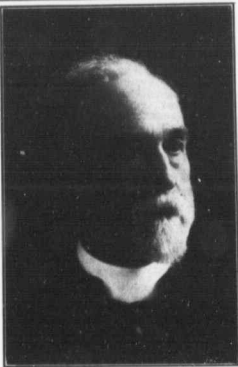


## WHAT CONSTITUTES SERVICE

The true wealth and strength of this country are found in its good men and good women, and in nothing else. Not in our vast territory, which stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific and listens to the thunder of the Arctic Ocean; not in our crude material wealth, which is probably equal to that of any country in the world; not in our great educational advantages, for money and education are only weapons to be used for good or for evil according to the character of the people that possess them; not in our free political constitution, for no political constitution can turn rascals into good men; not in our rapidly increasing numbers, for the question of numbers, is wholly immaterial compared with that of character. Fill the country with bad men and the more we have, the worse off we are.

Young people, the best service you can render this Dominion is to be true in word, just in action, pure in spirit, perfect in the fear of God.

JAMES ALLEN.



REV. JAMES ALLEN, M.A.,  
General Secretary Home Missions.

highly taxed than any portion of the Empire, yet the average man neither sees nor feels it. With the man of business other questions are at stake. He fears the competition in ordinary lines of trade by the influx of Canadian men of business. This is a wholly groundless fear, for if Canadians came they would find the average Newfoundland probably a keener business man than any rival could be, for reasons that cannot be specified in a brief article. With manufacturing, the case is different, as most of the industries are highly protected and the raw material has to be imported. The only remedy for this would be a bounty given by the state.

## Prince Edward Island's Place in Canadian Nationhood

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THE above caption as the suggested subject for Prince Edward Island's message to the July ERA may seem at first a little out of proportion. Canada is so large and Prince Edward Island so small that to have a place in Canadian nationhood worthy of consideration might seem to savor of conceit or suggest burlesque. Nevertheless, the topic is appropriate and may fittingly be considered. Indeed, the fact of nationhood justifies the title in full.

As one of the autonomous provinces