

But Canadians cannot believe that the British Democracy will ever deliberately decide that way. We have persuaded ourselves that the British people have never in the past, and will never in the future, declare in favour of the disruption of the Empire. We still await with confidence the decision of the British people when this vital issue, which cannot long be postponed, is placed definitely before them.

If there were only one leader of public opinion in England, endowed with a vision that could look beyond the parochial political issues, upon which British parliamentary parties so frequently divide—one real man who would voice the yearnings of the race for Imperial Unity, on a basis of equality of citizenship for inhabitants of the Dominions as well as of the British Isles, then we could laugh out of sight the "impossibilities" conjured up in the minds of the politicians of the Empire, and realize in our own time the aspirations of all the white races that inhabit the Imperial domains.

As an excuse for denying to the people of the over-seas Dominions the right of participating in Imperial affairs, we are now frequently told that even in Great Britain parliamentary control is being supplanted by cabinet control, and that the representatives of the people in Parliament no longer determine questions of foreign or international policy. But nevertheless the power of making war, even in Great Britain, still essentially resides with the people and not with the executive. The Commons alone control the enlistment of troops, and the voting of funds; and the people are in reality the final arbiters in all those vital questions of foreign policy, of defense, of war, which are to the State of as supreme importance as the final question of life and death to the individual. "Where the executive," says an eminent political writer, "has not only the nominal but the "real power of declaring war, we cannot speak of civil liberty or of "self-government." In the determination of those questions Canadians ask no more, and we can ultimately accept no less than is already, under the existing constitutional practice, conceded to the electors of Great Britain.

Less than two years ago the present Prime Minister of Canada, declared in the House of Commons that:—

"I think the question of Canada's co-operation, upon a permanent basis, in Imperial defense, involves very large and very wide