

Empire, and which, if not averted, would shake the Empire to its very foundations—from the farm and the factory, from the workshop and the office, from the Universities and other halls of learning, came forth Canada's sons asking to be allowed to stand shoulder to shoulder with the regulars of Britain and with their brother volunteers of the Australias in upholding the common cause of all on the battle fields of South Africa. And while to-day many Canadian hearts are torn with grief, and sorrow fills many a Canadian home, the nation is richer and stronger; its character is tinged with a deeper hue and its life will be fuller and nobler by the death roll of Paardeberg, for that list of dead is the blood-written charter of Canada's admittance to the ranks of nations who recognize that their responsibility for the maintenance of freedom and justice extends beyond their own immediate borders.

EUROPEANS have been wont to sneer at the folly of the British Government in not adopting conscription or enforced service in the army. That is the system in vogue in other European countries, and to its existence the United States and Canada owe tens of thousands of their sturdy farmers of different nationalities who left their native lands to avoid the risk of being called upon to serve.

So much for conscription.

When things looked ugly for England in the Transvaal, and foreign intervention seemed possible, a call went up for volunteers. Over two thousand Canadians were at the scene of hostilities as soon as they could be transported there. Thousands were ready to follow if only given the opportunity. The same thing occurred in Australia and New Zealand, in Cape Colony and Natal; whole regiments of volunteers and militia offered themselves in England; and there are

included in the British forces in South Africa to-day over thirty thousand men who thus sought permission and were proud to be accepted to fight for their Sovereign, and of the whole army of over 140,000 under Lord Roberts, not a single man need have served Her Majesty to the day of his death if he had not wished and volunteered to do so in the first place.

This is under the system that foreign critics describe as a dismal failure.

AT the request of President Kruger, President McKinley offered his services as mediator to the English Government with a view to bringing about peace. Kruger made a similar request to the governments of all the leading nations, who politely but firmly declined to interfere in a matter in which England had stated she would not tolerate interference.

Of such is the statesmanship of United States Presidents.

Two years ago all Europe was ready to interfere between United States and Spain, with a view to saving the latter from the full effects of her inevitable defeat. A hint that England's navy would be at the disposal of the United States in the event of the latter being menaced by other powers, kept the rest of Europe quiet, and the Republic was allowed to crush Spain and reap the fruits of her victories.

Of such is the gratitude of the United States.

WE like individuality and character in a climate no less than in a human being. Insipidity in either is an offence against nature, but Canada's climate as we know it in these days of March, possesses an individuality that is a crime against nature, humanity, and everything that lives and tries to live, except the coal dealer.