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THE TWENTIETH CENTURY SPECTATOR OF BRITAIN'S FARTHEST WEST

For Community Service—Social, Educational, Literary and Religious; but Independent of Party, Sect or Faction.

"BE BRITISH," COLUMBIANS!

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A CANADIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

(A Suggestion by Dr. H. W. Riggs, Vancouver)

National songs are supposed to express the aspirations of the people, and by the constant reiteration to ingrain the thoughts embodied in them. Such have been used by all peoples at all times to inspire themselves with proper sentiments. Sometimes the form of words chosen at the time has been guided by a particular circumstance, and tradition has fastened on a people sentiments which are no longer appropriate. In the National Anthem of the British Empire no doubt the words were adopted when the Kingly Office was largely the seat of Government, and the King was the mainstay, or otherwise, of the people. However, in considering the development of the Empire, with the King as the central point to which a number of free nations are attached, it is fortunate indeed that the form of words has remained, and that we still pray for the preservation of the only visible link binding the Empire together.

However, each free nation within that Empire should have a National Song or Anthem, which should express both devotion to their Native Land and attachment to the Empire. To be a suitable form, the Anthem should be concise—one verse being sufficient, and, we believe, preferably with no chorus. Moreover, it should be good poetry as well as an expression of sentiment.

When we look over the list of patriotic songs, which are sung by Canadians, we find many excellent expressions of phases of Canadian thought, yet none are well adapted, according to the above premises, to be adopted as a National Song. It is because we believe the following form of words, written by General Buchan, of Ottawa, to the tune of "O Canada" fulfils the conditions that we beg to submit it as a suitable wording of at one and the same time our devotion to Canada and attachment to the Empire.

"O CANADA"

O Canada, our heritage, our love,
Thy worth we praise all other lands above,
From sea to sea throughout thy length
From Pole to Borderland.
At Britain's side whate'er betide
Unflinchingly we'll stand.
With heart we sing 'God Save the King.'
Guide Thou the Empire wide do we implore,
And prosper Canada from shore to shore."

There is dignity of expression as well as lofty sentiment in this poem. It emphasizes our pride in our own land, and also our interest in the Empire as a whole. For these reasons we desire to see it used as our Canadian National Song or Anthem in all the public assemblies of Canada.

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

As the article by Mr. D. A. MacDonald, K.C., Vancouver, and others in previous issues of this Magazine, and that by Dean Coleman in the present number might suggest, there is a sense in which the United States and Canada should grow more and more at one, if not one people. In our view that need not involve any political union—though no doubt many British-born folk would be glad to welcome back "Brother Jonathan," not as a prodigal, but as a big brother who, after leaving "home," led the way in legitimate self-expression among the nations that have sprung from the British Isles.

Even to the casual observer it must be obvious that the peaceful penetration of Canada by such clubs as Rotary, Kiwanis and others having their origin in the United States, is likely to prove no insignificant factor in influencing the business and community life of the Dominion.

In some ways it may be timely to emphasize, however, that Canada cannot hope—if only because of the comparatively small population which is still hers—to follow, in detail, business and other methods common in the United States. Nor, if Canada is to have its own individual nationhood, is it good for the Dominion to become any kind of "dumping ground" for the States.

For instance, recent discussion and action concerning the taxation of United States magazines or advertisements are well warranted. Because of the very large population of the States, and the consequent big demand for certain forms of printed matter, it is easy, and no doubt profitable, not merely for the publishers of leading and worth while journals in the States, but for large producers there of much printed matter less worthy, and often objectionable, to pass surplus supplies across the Line at a rate and under conditions which could not possibly obtain if production took place in Canada and was regulated—in business and circulation departments—by our own comparatively small population.

In some cases it is necessary to emphasize this to superficial people who may think they are making a hit when they refer to certain things as being done, or not being done by American (United States) publications; or who compare subscription and other rates to the seeming detriment of their own country.

In Canada, and Western Canada particularly, we are building without such a massed population as is common to our neighbors to the South, and it would be well—and only fair—that our citizens remember that in making comparisons.