

CANADA AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD

any Dominion can get out of it at will. Each Dominion has its own absolute say about the succession to the Throne. In other words, there can be (even without Newfoundland) six Kings at once—more than in poker. The legislative powers of each Dominion are unlimited; they can overlap as much as they like; and they do.

In other words, we have now got the British Empire on exactly what we may call a British footing, like so many other institutions in Great Britain; like the Beef-Eaters who don't eat beef; like the First Lord of the Treasury, who has nothing to do with it; like the Clerk of the Cheque who doesn't sign any and the Keeper of the Buck-hounds, who hasn't got any. Having thus reduced the Empire to an idea (perfectly intelligible to British people), it seems much wiser to leave it at that. At any rate it won't stand nearer analysis and closer dissection.

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Nor do we in my opinion need to vex ourselves with any discussion as to whether the British Empire in the counsels of the newly made world will act and vote as one unit or as five or six, and whether, similarly, Russia will act as one unit or sixteen. All such talk is mere academic chattering. No people with the power to do otherwise are going to stake the vital destiny of their country on a round-the-table majority vote, white, black, brown or yellow, from all