



CANADA TO UNCLE SAM



Keep right ahead, boys. Follow the Canada trail right straight to the trenches. By gum! the Fourth of July is pretty near the same as the First now."

CANADA welcomes the United States into the commonwealth of nations engaged on the right side in a world war. It is quite becoming for us, with one-thirteenth of Uncle Sam's population, and occupying as much space in geography and running about as far back in colonial history, to extend this welcome. We are genuinely glad of the chance. The United States now shows that it belongs to the New World of nations engaged in putting the old mediaevalism of Europe into the world's museum.

The United States is no longer a mere neighbour to us. She is an ally. But as an ally we understand Uncle better than any of the other belligerents do. Begging all the European statesmen's pardon, we in Canada have been living alongside the United States ever since we had a colonial existence. We know what the Fourth of July means just as well as we understand the First. We know as much about George Washington, George III., the Tax on Tea and the T. without R. that caused the American Revolution, as we do about the Fathers of Confederation. For a hundred years, since the peace of 1815, we have been on the best of terms with Uncle Sam. We have had treaty differences. There have been times when certain people wanted to amalgamate us in commercial union; times when annexation seemed to the continentalists to be the certain goal of Canada. George Washington made of North America two nations in place of one. He was a good economist. The Civil War made of two peoples one nation. That was even better economy. The war of 1914 and onwards has again made of the great republic on the south half of North America and the great overseas dominions on the north half one people for purposes of the war. There is no 49th parallel in

United States are sometimes greater than Congress. But Congress is now standing behind the President. The Manns, the Kitchins, the Champ Clarks, the Hampton Moores, the Callaways and the Coopers have quit being un-American. They have joined the New World. The epoch of talk is over. In a few days Uncle Sam may be at war.

Will it shorten the war? We don't know. If the war were scheduled to last years longer—yes. But that is not the question. In the matter of financial and economic support the entry of the United States will be a big help, no matter how soon the war ends. They are the richest nation in the world. But wealth on this side of the water is no use to belligerents on the other side. Armies must be fed and clothed. The biggest thing Uncle Sam can do besides furnishing credit and cash and raw materials is to pitch in and help clear up the submarine menace. It was the subs. that drove the United States into a state of war. It is the freedom of the seas that they most need, and that we as her Allies most need in finishing the war. Canada's share in the war is hampered by the submarine. The United States' programme will be still more hampered by the same cause. Whatever the American navy can do to block the submarine will be of much greater consequence than all she can accomplish at the front. Sending armies abroad will be a good thing for the national sentiment of the United States. Sending subs. to the bottom of the sea will be of far more practical use to the international sentiment of winning the war, which is no longer a mere conflict of armies, but an economic struggle of whole nations.

And in the governing of the world after the war is over the compact that ranges the world's greatest republic on the side of freedom and real civilization

the trenches. Canada and the United States have continued to buy and sell to each other in spite of tariff walls. They have remained separate peoples in spite of the continentalists. There is less sentiment towards union now than ever. While we shake hands with Uncle Sam in the war we do so as a separate people who are something less than a hundred years behind in the race for national greatness measured by achievement, but in many of the outlines of modern nationhood we think we have done quite as well as the United States.

As a war nation we have more than two years' start of Uncle Sam. We propose to forget that. We remember the parable of the man at the eleventh hour. There have been times when we wished there was no Bryan tincture in Uncle Sam's blood; times when we wished that country would show that it had a conviction for which it was ready to stake its last dollar. On the whole, we have not ceased to admire the course pursued by President Wilson. He made sure of the people and then went to Congress. The people of the

will be of even greater value than all Uncle Sam can do in the war.

No Branch Empire for Us

MUCH talk of late about Canada becoming the centre of a strange new confederacy involving the West Indies, Newfoundland, Miquelon and St. Pierre, under some such name as British North America, a name already immortalized in our own charter of Confederation. Probably because this is the fiftieth year of Confederation some of our empire-reconstruction enthusiasts would like to see July 1, 1917, become the mother of a new and bigger Canadian empire. It all furnishes thought fuel to our diligent junta of new Imperialists. But we implore our statesmen here and in England to pay no heed to them. Those who are most anxious to reincorporate this country as a sub-empire within the great British Empire are only committing the old-fashioned error of biting off more than they can chew. To annex Newfoundland, if that were possible, is quite another matter. The big island colony is part of our eastern gateway already, and could economically become part of our Confederation. St. Pierre and Miquelon might be considered. But the West Indies are not naturally an extension of Canada. If we should take them over we should only add to our own burdens without lightening theirs. We are no better fitted to administer the West Indies than England is. If we took them over we should either have to make them colonies of Canada with one of our superannuated knights sent down as governor, or remake them into provinces with elected members of Parliament travelling to Ottawa. To make them Crown colonies of Canada would only be to saddle ourselves with Imperial functions which we do not now and never should try to possess. To elect members of Parliament to Ottawa from the West Indies would be on a par with electing members of an Imperial Parliament from the seven seas. What the average West Indian does not know about the national life of Cariboo is only equalled by what many of our most fervent Imperialists already do not know about Canada. If there is one thing more than all others on our national programme in this 50th year of Confederation, it is the need for unifying Canada. It will take us until the 100th anniversary of our national birthday to do that.

Leave That Mote Alone

THERE is surely enough work to be done in Canada, or at the actual fighting front, to employ all the energies of Canadians without their having to enter upon moral crusades in Great Britain. We have had in Canada in recent times considerable experience with temperance legislation. A great many bars have been wiped out and a great many towns, cities and villages seem to be that much happier and healthier. But that is no reason why Canadians in London should undertake to correct the Mother Country's morals. Personally, and as it were, privately, in our own home, we may express the opinion that King Booze has far too many friends in high places in the Old Country. We may believe that the Mother Country would be a great deal better off without it, and so on. But it is out of place for us to presume upon the Imperial tie to lecture John Bull on his manners. One of the dangers of Imperialism—as it is understood by some people—lies in the license it seems to give one part of the Empire to "horn" into the affairs of the other parts. In Canada we don't want Englishmen lecturing us on our ways of doing things, no matter how bad those ways may be. We have plenty of sins, and no doubt many Englishmen are aware of them—but they have learned to let us alone. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. Let us not assume, because we are participants in the world war, that we have any more right to lecture the Old country on its morals, than it has to lecture us.