

antipathetic, as some critics pretend, to the people of those little Parent Islands whence so many of us by ancestry are proud to spring, and to trace there perhaps some of our rude virtues and our human imperfections, together with our language and our laws and the spirit of our free institutions.

The purpose of the "Native Sons" is the cultivation of that Canadian spirit. No good Canadian can object to that, and no good Briton ever will. For it goes to our dignity and self-respect. And these are as important in a country as in an individual.

"Native Sons," therefore, have a great work to do. A recent writer has remarked on this lack of national spirit in Canada today. I am inclined to agree with him. But why? Is it because we are not yet a homogeneous people? And the same writer has added still more severely, that petty jealousy, and sectionalism are rampant. In fact, that they are the prevailing traits of this country of scattered and heterogeneous communities. Man opposed man. The East opposed the West. Capital opposed expansion. And that nowhere does he find these traits exhibited to so great an extent as on this side of the Rocky Mountains, and among a certain type of public men and miscalled politicians. The one dominant thought with many of these heaven-born leaders seemed to be merely how long to prolong the life of their job. That job satisfied them. For anything higher than that they lacked foresight, imagination, patriotism and the courage to push back their horizons; to take the large and the long view.

#### DISHONEST EXPLOITATION

One statement that we hear too often these days is very serious and very true and very clear. It is that Canada has been sacrificed for some years past to the exploiter and the grafter. In no way is this demonstrated to such an extent as in the exploitation of our natural resources. Take for example our timber, asbestos and nickel, our pulpwood and other natural products, exported daily by ship-loads in the raw state, depleting our heritage, while our people are departing or unemployed, and our banks are gorged with idle capital. Why should this be, when by a stroke of the pen—call it embargo or what you will—we could compel foreign capital to come here, and could employ all our own, to build, and to invest and to do its work in Canada and give employment to hundreds of thousands more of good Canadians? These are questions and issues worthy of "Native Sons," and far more useful and urgent than doctrinaire discussions on the reform of the constitution.

#### DISCUSSING OUR STATUS

Now our status within the Empire has its own importance—academic and practical. It has been the subject recently of most interesting remarks within this Club—and without. And the end is not yet. Such discussion cannot be and should not be suppressed in the rising generation, Mr. Sawers, or even Sir Charles Tupper to the contrary notwithstanding. There is nothing more dangerous in the body politic than ingrowing speech, suppressed expression or silent discontent.

For nothing in public life could be more patriotic, more honourable and more appropriate than these discussions. But my learned friend Mr. McCrossan, with all of whose conclusions and much of whose tone, many of us here may not fully agree, is an able special pleader; quite able to take care of himself, if need be. And I pay him, en passant, my compliments personally, as I have done already, for the intelligent, the laboured and the finished character of those special pleas of his. But it should in fairness be remarked that he spoke for himself, as I do, and always, as I understood him, he spoke of Canada—"within the Empire." True, he has made some mention of our sovereignty, as desirable, and of our independence. As other and older and distinguished men in this country have done before.

Well, that was his right. This is a country of free discussion. Every man is entitled to his own opinion, and in

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