

THE POSITION OF CANADA.

NATION-BUILDING is usually a slow process. The growth of European countries has been the work of centuries; the Constitution of Great Britain itself has been the result of evolution through ages of internecine strife or patriotic struggle. The United States as it appears to-day is the consequence of over a hundred years of experiment, experience and even civil war. Canada has, however, been more fortunate. The Colonies as they existed prior to confederation were, it is true, born of a combination of war and privation and nursed in doubt and danger, but the union of 1867 under the broad folds of the national emblem removed serious risk and enabled them to enter upon a period of material development and legislative improvement. The national heritage then presented to, or shortly afterwards acquired by, a people numbering but three millions was indeed a vast and noble possession. With a territory larger than the United States; equalling to-day one-third of the whole British Empire; having the greatest extent of coast-line; the greatest coal measures; the most varied distribution of precious and economic minerals; the greatest number of miles of river and lake navigation; the widest extent of coniferous forest; the most extensive and most valuable salt and fresh water fisheries, and probably the vastest and most fertile districts of arable and pastoral land upon the face of the globe, it is little wonder that the Canadian