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## CANADA NOT INDEPENDENT

A REPLY TO MR. JOHN S. EWART'S ARTICLE ENTITLED  
"CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE"

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IN an article which appears in the May number of *The Canadian Magazine* Mr. John S. Ewart contends that Canada is even now an independent kingdom. "Speaking politically," he says, "there is only one bond which binds Great Britain and Canada, namely, the King. The relationship of Canada to the United Kingdom is that of two nations with the same Sovereign. Canada is not a part of the British Empire any more than the United Kingdom is a part of the Canadian Empire." Canada and Great Britain are two independent Kingdoms under one Crown, with this difference only, that the Sovereign of Canada is an absentee.

These statements startle us, coming as they do from a student of constitutional subjects of the very highest rank. Is Mr. Ewart's article written seriously or in irony. If written in irony, it is, indeed, well-timed, for it is time, indeed, that Canada at least cease her high-swalling note of national independence and begin to turn her attention carefully and for some definite practical purpose upon the ac-

tual facts of her relations to Great Britain. It is just possible that these facts may disclose to us that our national pride is unjustifiable and that our position in the Empire is really much less honourable than we sometimes vainly imagine it to be. If, however, Mr. Ewart intends that we should understand his words literally, we cannot see our way clear to accept his argument as of any value. The contention that all political connection between Great Britain and Canada has been finally reduced to allegiance to the same King may be startling, but it is only startling because it is wholly untrue. Great Britain and Canada are still bound together by many ties. Some of these ties, indeed, are so elementary as to be scarcely worthy of citation. It is doubtful even if a single one of the old ties which existed, say, half a century ago is yet broken, except, possibly, that Canada's independent right to make her own customs laws is now fully admitted. Canada's chief executive officer, the Governor-General, is an appointee of the British Executive. Canada's final Court of Appeal in law is the