

The United States and Canada's Status Among the Nations

While the solemn deliberations of the Peace Council were in progress, a grave misconception arose in certain quarters. It was declared that Great Britain desired to have each of her self governing colonies represented in the League of Nations in order to secure unto herself a dominating voice.

A rather brittle friendship between Great Britain and the United States was strained because neither nation could nor would, grasp the view point of the other.

The average American has a very mistaken idea of Canada's relation to England. They regard us with pity and contempt as being a people too weak and spiritless to break away from the apron strings of old Mother England. They cannot, in many cases, understand that the bond uniting the different parts of the British Empire is as close and indissoluble as that which exists between the various states of America.

They will tell you in a complacent voice that they have absolutely nothing against the Canucks. Oh no! Why, they are every bit as good as the Americans or at least would be if they would shake off the British grip and become more progressive. Some of them pursue the same logic as an old Idaho farmer who told a Canadian woman that Canada just naturally ought to belong to the States for didn't we speak the same tongue as they?

Surely we have proved our indisputable right to a voice in the conduct of international affairs. At Ypres, Vimy Ridge and on other notable occasions we proved to the world that Canada's manhood is of the finest. We "carried on" both at home and abroad in a manner worthy of a great nation.

Before the war we were practically an unknown quantity. In his book on "Germany and the Next War," written several years ago, Bernhardt scarcely deigns to mention the British overseas Dominions as a force to be taken into account. But the war is over and we have come of age. The whole world is waiting to hear our views and watching with interest our tactics toward the old land.

However, we have not yet learned to express ourselves fully. Our literary, artistic and musical as well as political and industrial life, is still in the embryo state. If we do not hasten to develop we shall be in danger of having our individuality sunk into that of our Southern neighbor. The United States of America was forced early in her history to stand upon her own feet, on account of her isolated position and her attitude towards Great Britain.

When the question of reciprocity came to an issue, the Canadian people showed, by an overwhelming majority vote, how they felt concerning the matter, which was annexation, slightly camouflaged. No government has ever gone to the people and received a more emphatic answer than did the Laurier ministry on that occasion.

At the same time, American ideals and opinions are being subtly impressed upon the rising generation of Canada. Their literature floods the land and we are copying many of the worst phases of that country. The growing tendency to moral looseness, so prevalent in the large cities south of us, is being introduced into Canada through the pages of the popular American fiction magazines.

Not only in yellow journalism is there a menace. There is hardly a number of the high class American journals and reviews but what contains some criticism of Great Britain and her colonies. If some American journalist is not "exposing" British methods in one place, he is "telling the truth" about her misrule in another. Pleasing to our national pride and self respect, is it not?

It is strange that the American press does not use more discrimination in its articles considering the vast number of

Canadian readers. The truth is that they know it to be unnecessary. With the exception of a few newspapers and a very few periodicals, we are entirely dependant upon the Old Country and United States for literature and current opinion. They have piped and we blithely dance.

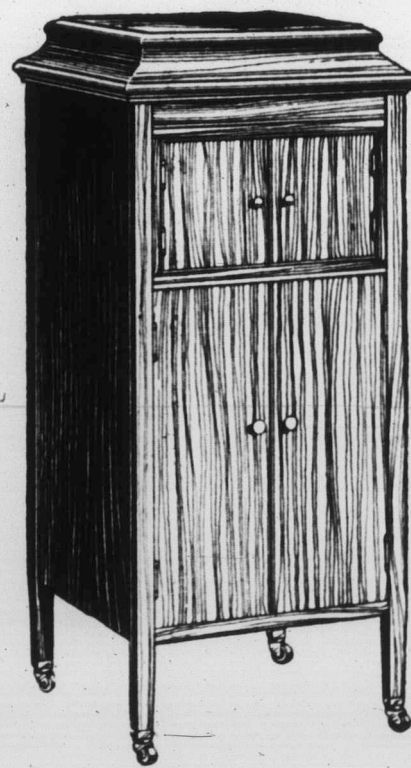
Not only in the question of reading matter is the American influence felt for the Moving Pictures have usurped the place of books to a great extent. Nine-tenths of the pictures shown are about American subjects and deal with events from their own standpoint. It is somewhat of a bore for a Canadian audience to have to watch a made-up picture of American doughboys running up Old Glory to the top of the flagstaff at Potsdam, with the Union Jack trailing up inconspicuously some three or four places below.

While it is not right to encourage race prejudice, we do think that we are justified in demanding of our Canadians that they think and speak for themselves. It is absurd to think that we love to see ourselves as others see us, but what else can explain the fact that we pass over the earnest utterances of Canadian writers and seek a national inspiration from the American press.

It is time to rise up, Canada, and declare yourself. Out of the crucible of War, and the melting pot of nations, will come a composite character with greater possibilities than ever known before. We are living in an age of formative opportunity. Let us be in the advance guard of every great movement, leading the world in intellectual and industrial effort. National greatness depends upon the welfare of the individual. Let us get behind every movement that has the glory of Canada for its aim and above all encourage the mental and spiritual growth of our fair Dominion.

M. J. R.

Now It's the Mason & Risch Phonograph



Not simply a "talking machine," but an instrument giving you the finest gradations of voice—or instrument.

So realistic that the artists themselves might well envy the reproduction.

\$160 Upwards
All Cabinet Style

You can buy this instrument on easy terms—"from factory to home."

Mason & Risch
Limited

"Makers of Mason & Risch Pianos."

738 GRANVILLE ST.

VANCOUVER, B.C.