

CANADA'S RELATION TO THE GREAT WAR

were less friendly than they should have been; the Queen of whom Whittier made Americans say:

We bowed the heart but not the knee,
To England's Queen, God bless her.

When her great day closed a King succeeded, of rare human quality, who in his happy youth came to this country and left enduring impressions of a gracious and attractive personality, who, whether on the throne or not, was Prince and democrat and statesman and diplomat, and throughout his too short reign we sang "God Save the King" with the old faith and fervor. Another King succeeded, and because upon him as the constitutional embodiment of the Empire and the expression of its power and unity rests the burden of this tremendous time through which we are passing, we sing "God Save the King" with such devotion and solemnity and passion as we have never felt before. It is not so much intellectual reverence for monarchy that moves us as the conviction—continuing through the centuries—that the throne represents the traditions and the glories and the ideals and the aspirations of an historic Kingdom and a ruling people. And as we sing we must fight and pay and pray.

In peace we boasted of our British citizenship. Under the protection of the navy our trade had free course over all the seas. Under the flag we had freedom and security. We were fed and nourished by British capital. We spoke with authority in Imperial conferences. We disclaimed any thought of political independence. We declared that within the Empire we had a prouder and more influential citizenship than we could have under any other relation, connection or condition. It is true that we were not subject to any coercion or compulsion. Constitutionally the Government and Parliament of Canada were as free to act or to refrain from action as were the Government and Parliament of Great Britain. But Governments must express public opinion and no Government could have lived against the anger that would have