

my duty to record my conviction that the coinage of gold in Canada, in our present circumstances, is undesirable because; (1), The very basis of the banking and currency system is thereby disturbed; (2), The coin will not circulate, and neither demand nor occasion for it exists; (3), It cannot be retained by the banks, and must either be exported at a loss or demonetized; (4), It involves a loss to the Government; (5), It tends to displace and disorganize a currency system safe, stable, and peculiarly adapted to the needs of our commerce; and (6), It opens the door to that incalculable mischief, the free coinage of silver.

CANADA'S NATIONAL STRENGTH.

Evidences of the solid substantial growth of Canada in all that tends to make a country prosperous are to be found in abundance, either by observation of our present condition, or by contrasting it with the past, whether it be a near or a remote one. Complaint, it is true, is sometimes voiced, that our population increases at a snail-pace, and comparison in this respect is drawn with the United States to the disparagement of the Dominion. I would remind you that there are two sides to this question. Mere numbers in themselves do not necessarily constitute a great and prosperous country. If they did, then China would stand in the van of nations, instead of in the rear. A small community may be free, prosperous and happy, to wit: Switzerland, even though we moderns term it slow, unprogressive, unambitious, old foggyish. Our six millions of Canadians have probably as high an average of comfort as any people in the world; if we have fewer millionaires, yet have we fewer paupers than European countries, and in point of personal liberty, of freedom of government, of stable institutions, in opportunities for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness we need envy no one. An augmentation of population is desirable in so far as the national strength is thereby increased, but it is a moot problem if in other respects a large population is necessarily an added blessing, and certain it is that growth of numbers without homogeneity, assimilation, and unity of national sentiment is a distinct weakness to a State. Our national security is derived not from strength within so much as from strength without; from our position as a member, and no humble one, of the great Empire of Britain. That security, it is no vain boast, I believe, to make, has been rendered yet greater by the events of the past year, and especially by the splendid and moving spectacle of Britain's sons from the four corners of the Empire, fighting shoulder to shoulder in South Africa, in the cause of freedom and a united Empire. Looking at the attitude of England's first and chiefest colony towards her a century and more ago, and that of her colonies to-day, how aptly the words of Shakespeare fit the situation:

"This England never did, nor never shall,
Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror,
"But when it first did help to wound itself,
"Now these her princes are come home again,
"Come the three corners of the world in arms,
"And we shall shock them; naught shall make us
rue
"If England to itself do rest but true."

THE CANADIAN MINT PROJECT.

The proposal to establish a Mint in Canada was discussed by Mr. E. S. Clouston, general manager of the Bank of Montreal, in his presidential address at Toronto, before the Canadian Bankers' Association. His condemnation of the Mint scheme was shared in by the general managers of the leading banks in Canada. The Government, therefore, will have an excellent excuse if it withdraws the proposal. As the scheme is favoured by the leading organ opposed to the Government, which endeavours to controvert the views held by bankers, it is clear that the Mint scheme will be discussed and decided on by Parliament, independently of party lines. We therefore submit the following objections to a Canadian Mint, and also submit answers to the attack made on the position taken by the bankers as stated by Mr. Clouston.

The question is not of immediate consequence, but it has in it the germs of a policy that may seriously disturb the currency conditions and needs of Canada. The notion, that the gold mined in this country needs to be manufactured into coins before being sold, in order for its full value to be realized, is only held by those who are not acquainted with the facts. Gold is the measure of its own value, as a yard stick is the measure of its own length, which is a standard one. What goods a yard-stick measures may vary in value, but the measure itself has a constant, unvarying length. By Act of Parliament, gold bullion of the standard fineness, when offered to the Bank of England, must be exchanged for notes at the rate of £3 17s. 9d. for each ounce. The value of these notes is within an insignificant fraction of the value of gold coin to same nominal amount. The gold bullion sold for mining purposes, therefore, is invariably sold for the same amount of money that can be realized out of the notes which were paid for the bullion. All the Mint does is to convert the gold into coins, called sovereigns, each of which must weigh 123,274 grains of a fixed, standard fineness. Those who imagine that the officials of a Canadian Mint would buy gold bullion and add materially to its value by turning it into coins by stamping, forget that gold is the standard of value, and that bullion cannot be made of higher value than its own weight by being cut into pieces, the aggregate value of which must be the value of the same weight of gold of the same fineness. The Mint price for gold bullion is fixed by the number of coins it will produce, and, whether gold is scarce or plentiful, that rule never varies, so far as the relation between value of bullion and value of coin is concerned.

For what purpose would a Mint be worked in Canada? Certainly to supply no existing demand for coins. So far as gold ones are concerned, one stamping mill or machine would do all the work needed for Canada in one day every year, as it could make 46,000 to 56,000 sovereigns daily. This is enormously in excess of the consumption of such coins in Can-