

every prospect of disintegration. The same may be the case with the great question still new to the popular mind throughout the Empire. Some great national emergency may arise to show the Parent State, as well as her dependencies, the inequality and insecurity of the basis on which the Empire rests. At present Canadians may be apathetic, for reasons which we have endeavoured to set forth, as concisely as possible; but fifteen or twenty years hence, when Canada will have a large population, and her vast territory will be divided into flourishing provinces, extending continuously from the Atlantic to the Pacific, they may feel that the time is come for demanding a higher position in the councils of the Empire, commensurate with their growth and importance. Questions of tariff may then sink into insignificance, and a people of fifteen or twenty millions will be entitled to a representation which may give them sufficient influence over the affairs of the Empire, and guard all their own immediate interests. The national sentiment which is slowly developing among the people may become dominant, and force Canada to assert herself more determinedly. Any one looking at the political movement throughout the Empire, has every reason for thinking that events are shaping themselves for important political changes. The parent islands themselves are, in the opinion of many astute observers, on the eve of a social and political revolution, the result of which cannot be foreseen by the most sagacious statesmen. The Imperial Parliament must, sooner or later, be compelled to relieve itself of some of its functions which now render legislation in many cases impracticable. The Australian dependencies are improving their facilities for joint action, and must eventually recognize the necessity that exists for a wider scheme of federation. Even the West Indies are commencing to see the necessity of some bond of political union, although no decided step has yet been taken in this direction. No doubt the principle of federalism, which above all other principles of government combines a strong central authority with local freedom of action, is likely in the future to unite all communities, naturally allied to each other by ties of a common nationality, or common political and commercial interests. The United States and Germany, and Austria-Hungary to a minor degree, illustrate the growth in modern times of this great governing principle, which has resulted from the necessity that has arisen in these days of democratic tendencies for giving as full play as possible to the desire that exists in every community for local self-government. By the commencement of the twentieth century,
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