

CANADA'S CHOICE:

Independence, Imperial Federation, or Imperial Alliance.

The Dominion of Canada occupies in the world and in the Empire an anomalous, and, to some extent, an anonymous position. We long ago discarded the term "colonist" as being inapplicable to a people who had attained the degree of self government which we have achieved; and yet the term "Canadian" does not yet possess the same national significance to us that, for instance, the term "American" possesses for the citizen of the United States. If you ask a Canadian his nationality, he will tell you that is is a New Brunswicker, that he was born in the Island, or that he comes from Bruce County. The residents of the rural districts of Ontario divide their Canada into three parts, Ontario, Down East, and Out West, and in their conception the Down East and the Out West occupy positions with relation to Ontario somewhat analagous to that which a horse's tail occupies to the rest of the animal's body. The Nova Scotian, hearing that a friend is going to Winnipeg, gives him a letter of introduction to a relative in Vancouver in the hope that they may meet casually some Saturday afternoon. Many Englishmen never forget the fact that they are English and resent being called Canadians.

We have yet to develop "Canadian" as a unified national term so that a Canadian from one part of the Dominion feels a brother to a Canadian from any other part. As long as we continue to draw distinctions between French-Canadian and English-Canadian, as long as we allow provincial prejudices to dominate our political outlook, we will remain provincial and lose the greater vision of a national Canada—a nation of the