

and, secondly, it is possible, however disagreeable the suggestion may be to extreme Imperialists, a number of Canadians have doubts, situated as we are, and with magnificent prospects of a future national development, whether it would be prudent or desirable that Canada should risk everything by throwing herself unreservedly into the vortex of Britain's complex international relations.

Some Canadians are in favour of the policy of Canada identifying herself with Imperial interests and standing or falling absolutely with the fortunes of the Empire. Other Canadians, and probably these constitute at present the large majority, are disposed to adhere to the fortunes of the Empire, but are content that we should drift for the present and leave the future open. To this class of Canadians the possibility is always present that the time may come when the interests of Canada may be best promoted by not being involved in all the perils and complications of European diplomacy.

Some Canadians want the question of our relations with the Empire settled to-day. If they were able to force matters to a conclusion now they would probably be bitterly disappointed with the result of to-day's verdict. Those who favour Imperialistic ideas, and wish that Canada and the other great British possessions should become part and parcel of the Imperial system, have everything to gain by delay. Events seem to be moving in their direction, and it may be that time has in store for us a natural evolution of events which will make British unity throughout the world a practicable and desirable thing. At this moment the majority of Colonials are not educated to this point.

The majority of Canadians would be content to send contingents from Canada at Canada's expense when the emergency of the Empire demanded, but if this majority had to decide to-day and forever whether Canada should contribute to the expense of the army and the navy, and link herself inexorably with the destinies of the Empire, there might be hesitation and shrinking.

However unpleasant it may seem to persons of intensely Imperialistic tendencies, the presence of 70,000,000 to 80,000,000 of English-speaking people on our borders is an element that cannot be altogether ignored in forming our plans for national life. It may be, and probably will be, the determination of the Canadian people not to be politically allied with this English-speaking power beside us on this continent, but the relations which this great commonwealth bears to us commercially, socially, politically, and in all ways potentially, is an element that must be reckoned with and cannot be absolutely put out of sight.

The brightest Imperial statesmen recognize this, and the most sensible and thoughtful Canadians recognize it.

To sum up, the Imperial Council now sitting in London will accomplish very little that bears directly on the question of the relations between Canada and the Empire.

Good feeling will continue, preferential trade will be wisely talked of,