

At the request of a large number of members the Inaugural Address delivered by Mr. J. S. Ewart, K.C., is herewith appended:—

Canada and the Canadian Clubs.

Why is there so little national sentiment in Canada?

Primitive man (or wolves, for that matter) recognize that their safety and efficiency depend upon loyal combination. As the tribe expands through various gradations into a nation this conviction continues. There is not the same ever-present demonstration of its foundation, but its true basis remains. It has been fostered, moreover, by song and story, by united victory and common disaster; it has ceased to be the result of reason; it has become a mental and emotional habit; it has become a passion—often, I am afraid, an obsession or monomania, and in its worst but somewhat frequent form, a megalomania.

Why then is there so little national sentiment in Canada?

It is unnecessary for my purpose this evening to inquire whether under ideal conditions national sentiment is beneficial—whether, indeed, there could then be such a thing; for if we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, everybody, including ourselves, will be placed upon a footing of absolute equality of affection. We are not in the millennium; and I am afraid that I, for one, would find it a little monotonous if we were. On the contrary we are in a somewhat selfish and harsh sort of a world, and we have to play the game of contention and strife under protestations of brotherhood and Christian love, and with our beaks and claws in finest contentious condition. For fighting effectiveness (either in its eternal form of life destruction or in its more modern aspect of commercial competition) organization, and consolidation, and unity of interest, are prime requisites. In other words, for present conditions a national sentiment is an essential concomitant of national life.