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By far the finest passage in Mr. Laurier's speech at Toronto is the quotation which he introduces from his Quebec speech of June last, as evidence of his consistency and honesty. He had been insisting that whether he spoke to his compatriots of his own blood and language in this province, or to those of British race and speech in Toronto, his sentiments were always the same. And in proof of this he repeated a portion of his speech in replying to the toast of Canada at the St. Jean Baptiste celebration. "We are French-Canadians," said Mr. Laurier on that occasion, "but our country is not confined to the territory shadowed by the Citadel of Quebec. Our country is Canada, all that is covered by the British flag on the American continent, the fertile lands washed by the Bay of Fundy, the valley of the St. Lawrence, the region of the great Lakes, the prairies of the West, the Rocky Mountains, the lands lamed by that storied ocean whose breezes are as mild as those of the Mediterranean. Our compatriots are not merely those in whose veins flows the blood of France; but all those, of whatsoever race, or language, whom the fortunes of war, the course of events or their own choice have placed side by side with us, and who recognize the sovereignty of the British Crown. I proclaim aloud that I am a Canadian and that these are my compatriots. I have said elsewhere and I repeat here that, of all my fellow-countrymen, the first place in my heart is for those in whose veins flows the blood that courses through my own. Nevertheless, I do not hesitate to say that the rights of my compatriots of other races are as dear, as sacred as the rights of my own race, and if it should happen that they were attacked, I would defend them with the same energy and vigour that I would display on behalf of my own people."

"I say I, but ought I not rather say, we?" continued Mr. Laurier. "Yes, we who are the sons of France, of that generous nation which has so often shed its blood in defending the weak and the oppressed, cannot but be ready at all times to defend the rights of our compatriots of other nationalities with the same energy that we defend our own with. I claim for all an equal share of the sunshine, of justice, of liberty. That share we enjoy in ample measure, and what we ask for ourselves we are eager to grant to others. As for myself, I do not wish the French-Canadians to dominate over any one or any one to dominate over them. Equal justice, equal rights! It is written that the hairs of our heads are numbered, and that not even a sparrow can fall to the ground without the permission of a Providence that is

eternally wise. May we not believe then, that, when the final struggle took place on the Plains of Abraham, and the fortune of arms turned against us, it was in the designs of Providence that the two races so long foes to each other should live henceforth in peace and harmony on this continent and constitute but a single nation? That, gentlemen, is the idea which inspired the Canadian Confederation."

Notice has been given that application will be made to Parliament for an act to incorporate the Sault Ste. Marie and Hudson Bay Railway. As we have already pointed out, the construction of such a line is quite practicable. The main difficulty is the poorness of harbour accommodation on James Bay. Moose Factory, the proposed terminus, is a mere roadstead, where only craft of light draught can enter, and there is really no alternative. Engineering can, of course, do much to improve it, and, if the company proceed with the enterprise, the harbour question is sure to find a solution. That such an undertaking should be projected is additional evidence of the change that has overtaken public opinion as to the value of the remoter portions of the Canadian Dominion. The time is not beyond the memory of some of our younger readers when such a scheme would have simply excited ridicule. Now, it is regarded as in the natural course of our industrial and commercial development. The value of the Hudson Bay route was thoroughly ventilated a few years ago by a select committee appointed to enquire into the navigation of the Bay. On the suggestion of the committee, which elicited a good deal of favourable evidence, a system of observation was ordered, which comprised the despatch of an expedition to Hudson Bay under command of Lieut. Gordon, R.N. The results of Lieut. Gordon's voyages, which have been published, are cited both by the advocates and the opponents of the route.

It is satisfactory to know that the South American delegates have had, at least, a glimpse of the great north land, of which some of them, it is said, have confused and incorrect notions. It is a pity, however, that they should not see something more of the country than the acceptance of an evening's hospitalities just across the line would imply. The glorious Indian summer shows Canada in a guise which would be a novelty to some of the inter-tropical visitors. It must be remembered, of course, that parts of Chili and the Argentine Republic are as temperate as Canada itself. Our northern cities, industries and social life, and the evidence of wealth and prosperity to be met with in the Dominion would tend to correct any wrong impressions that may have been made on the minds of the delegates. Canada has for years been trying—like our neighbours—to bring about closer relations between Central and South America and ourselves. A Canadian commissioner visited Brazil, the Argentine Republic and Uruguay to that end last year, and, in view of the prevailing desire for the profitable exchange of Canadian products with those of South America, the opportunity of letting the visitors see what Canada really is seems too good to be lost.

The best experiment in repatriation yet attempted is that which the new cotton mill at Montmorenci Falls is about to put to the test. Of the two hundred hands to be employed, it is expected that a good many will be Canadians returned from United States factory towns. The mills, which, with the machinery of the best modern design,

are computed to have cost \$1,500,000, will make a speciality of white and gray cottons for the Chinese market.

Some of the revelations made by the House of Lords committee on the "sweating" system are a disgrace to British civilization. Most deplorable especially was the state of things disclosed in the course of the enquiry as to the employment and remuneration of women and girls. In some cases the occupations in which they were found to be engaged were utterly unfitted for their sex; yet for daily toil of a character that would tax the physical strength of even the strongest men, they received starvation wages. In the chain-making industry in Staffordshire, a married woman, according to the testimony rendered, received six shillings and sixpence a week (less than \$1.75) for making a hundred weight of common chain. At this terrible drudgery, for this pittance, she toiled from seven in the morning till seven at night. For the same work the son was paid just double the amount apportioned to his mother. This class of work, like the other phases of labour that came under the cognizance of the committee, was done, not directly for the owners of factories, but for intermediaries known as "foggers," who, of course, took good care to make their own profits.

A feature of the sweating system in this industry, which aggravates the ruthless cruelty practised on the victims, is that the "foggers" claim the privilege of selling provisions to those who work for them at their own prices. If demur is made, work is refused. Other departments of iron manufacture yielded like results. In fact, the whole system, as exposed by a long and searching inquiry, is so repugnant to the principles of humanity and justice that one wonders how it could ever have gained ground in the United Kingdom. It is no wonder that discontent prevails, and that the "masses" distrust a religion that bears such fruit.

The Canadian branch of the Imperial Federation League held an important meeting recently, at which there was a large attendance. Letters of apology or suggestion were read from some absent members, including the Archbishop of Halifax and Mr. J. Israel Tarte, editor of *Le Canadien*. Among those present were Col. O'Brien, M.P., Col. Denison, M.P., Mr. Jehu Matthews, Mr. J. Castell Hopkins, Dr. Bourinot and Mr. Dalton McCarthy, M.P., who presided. Resolutions were passed in favour of a London conference, at which all parts of the Empire should be represented. We are glad to believe that the tendency of this movement is to bring the scattered parts of the British Empire into closer intercourse, sympathy and co-operation with each other than they have been in the past and to give reality to the principle of common interests and responsibilities. The task is one for giants in statesmanlike intellect and energy. When we know how hard it is to make the people of one of our own provinces to concern themselves in the welfare of their fellow-citizens in another province—when the felt *vis inertiae* of local prejudices and selfishness so often stands in the way of any scheme whose profits are not present and visible—we can imagine how difficult it must be to create in Natal an interest in the fortunes of British Columbia, in New Zealand, any thought of the "French shore" question in Newfoundland, or in Yorkshire any indignation at the Behring Sea outrages.

It is now five years since the League was organized, and since then branches have been estab-