

Sir Edmund Walker's Dominion Day Message to Canadians, July 1st, 1910

We are becoming accustomed to the idea that we possess the area of cultivable soil and the other natural resources necessary to support one of the largest of the nations in the western half of the world. We are receiving new population at a rate quite as large as we can care for, having regard to those already in Canada.

We are told that we are to feed nations whose food supply will become exhausted, and we are to supply, if we will, raw material in order that the wheels in other countries may not be idle. We have also the water-power, the raw material and the quality of labor which will make us one of the greatest of the manufacturing countries in the western world. We have a climate fit to produce a good race physically. We are rapidly conquering the difficulties of transportation on our own land and water, and we are linking ourselves with the rest of the world across the various oceans. We have a sound system of law, a system of education doubtless inadequate to our needs, but improving, an excellent banking system, and our national credit is so great as to be a possible source of danger. If we can but conserve our resources we are, therefore, assured of material prosperity. Indeed, it seems so sure that we shall be one of the richest of the newer nations that we are fast becoming a vain and self-satisfied people.

But while these brilliant prospects are well founded, is it all right with us as a nation? I am sure that all is not right. We have seen a democracy which began with almost the noblest principles ever declared in a national manifesto, and which certainly was far from believing that money was a measure of national greatness, become, by too much devotion to money-making, a vast nation of discontented people ruled by a few plutocrats.

Is this to be our future? Is not our measure of success to-day largely one of money? What is the use of denying that we are at present too much in love with material prosperity? But we are not so grossly in love with it as our friends to the south. We can still recall the time when a large part of our people had other ambitions. We still recognize that no nation built on material prosperity alone can endure.

When we find a man who has devoted his life only to