

Canada For Canadians.

"Breathes there the man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
'This is my own, my native land?'"

In preparing this little article, it is not the intention of the writer to make any undue reference to either of the great political parties in Canada, as he does not feel that it is possible, by any action on the part of the government, to change the hearts of our people, at least in a moment. It is an undisputed fact that loyalty to Canada and British institutions has ever been a wide plank in the platform of one party, while I greatly regret to say this same plank has formed a much smaller part of the other party's platform. Notwithstanding this fact, there are many true men to be found in the ranks of each party, men who would fight for, and if need be, die for their country's sake.

Therefore, it would be absurd to speak of any particular party as containing all our true patriots.

Loyalty, ah Loyalty! I would that there had been much more of this noble sentiment in the teachings and preaching of parents to their children, of ministers to their flocks, and of orators to their audiences, ever since the British conquest of Canada. If such had been the case, I will venture to say, a much different state of affairs would have existed in Canada to-day. Under these circumstances, Canada's floating population would have been decreased by surely more than half. To-day there would not be so many Canadian "swallows" seeking the short summer of sunshiny prosperity in the overcrowded cities of the New England States, who, when struck by the chilly blasts of the approaching winter of idleness, suddenly become aware of the fact that they are but aliens in that land, and their delicate plumage requires the welcome and cheering firesides of their friends and relatives across the Canadian border, for the ensuing five or six months. Heaven have pity on the greater proportion of them if they had not this safe old refuge to turn to. If during the years gone by loyalty to Canada had been more frequently sung and told to our young men and women Canadian lumbermen would have been called on to cut down a greater number of trees to furnish materials for a much greater number of Canadian homes, Canadian farmers and producers would have been called on to furnish a thousand times more food to satisfy the hungry mouths of honest Canadian manufacturers and therefore our home market for the productions of our farmers and factories would be worth so many times more.

Is this, dear reader, the greatest reason for our preaching loyalty to Canada? I think not. It is only one of them: Have

you not heard people in this province saying they wished they were annexed to the United States? Have you not in conversation with many people heard them attempt to belittle the value of their birthright as Canadians? I am grieved to say I have fallen in with this class of my fellow countrymen far too often. I wish most sincerely that from the Pacific on the west, to the Atlantic on the east, and from our southern extremities, to our frozen northern regions, there could not be found a single Canadian-born man, woman or child who is not ready and proud to call himself firstly a Briton, and secondly a Canadian forever. I wish that the colony of provincialists in and about the state of Massachusetts were reduced to a handful.

I wish that a lesser number of the haggard faces we meet in the hurrying throngs on the streets of the city of Boston were those of Canadian born men and women.

I wish that a lesser number of our best young Canadians were (figuratively speaking) hewers of wood, and drawers of water in a foreign land, or holding any other mean position for a people who so long ago turned their backs upon their mother. I should like to see these people more content with the slower, steadier, but surer and healthier growth of their own Canadian homes and industries. We are told that the United States is about to enact a law to prevent the entrance of aliens unless they pass a certain examination and are found proficient in the arts of reading and writing, and will pay a fixed sum of money, and lastly in addition to all this, take the oath of allegiance to the United States. Should such a law come in force, may it never be said that any true-born Canadian and subject of her most gracious majesty, Queen Victoria, has turned a traitor to his home and Queen, and forfeited his title of Briton, for the sake of gaining an entrance to the United States. Canada's progress has seemed slow in comparison to that of the great republic south of her; but when we bring to mind the fact that Canada had but 90,000 souls when the American colonies revolted, and that those colonies then contained 3,500,000 people, we can see that Canada's growth has been much greater proportionately than that of the United States. Canada has built 16,154 schools, 14 universities, 41 colleges, and over 300 high schools, and makes an annual expenditure of \$12,000,000 to prepare a million girls and boys for citizenship. The length of our Canadian railways is to-day about 17,000 miles in all. Since confederation many millions of dollars have been spent in constructing, deepening and widening our canals, and we claim the honor of having the greatest

system of canals in the whole world. Through the development of our internal means of communication, our trade has been greatly expanded. The total trade of Canada has increased from \$131,375,520 in 1868 to more than \$239,000,000 in the past year. Our trade with Great Britain in the last fiscal year was \$22,000,000 greater than our trade with the United States for the same year. This fact should tend to strengthen our ties with the mother country, and convince our people that England, and not the United States, is the country to which our eyes must turn for the future development of our commerce.

Another evidence of Canada's healthy growth, is to be found in her sound financial institutions. During the late world-wide depression and financial crisis, when hundreds of banks in the United States were forced to the wall, not a single bank in Canada succumbed from a like cause. Then the savings of our people have increased from \$33,653,594 in 1868 to more than \$270,000,000 in 1894.

I mention these few interesting facts simply for the enlightenment of some of our people who are too fond of casting longing eyes towards the United States, while they fail to see the most wondrous growth of their own country.

Then again can we not point with pride to our great highway to the Orient, found in that famous belt of steel rails, and magnificent line of passenger steamships owned and operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway Co?

Can we not daily feel the benefit of having this great highway above mentioned, tapping as it does one of the greatest wheat belts in the known world, and bringing to our very doors a fine article of flour at the ruling low price of to-day? In addition to furnishing us with material for our own bread, we are enabled through our splendid rail communication to purchase food for our cattle and other stock, at a ridiculously low figure. The total output of grain from the province of Manitoba for one year has amounted to sixty-one and a half millions of bushels. Just think of that! This Manitoba wheat known as "No. 1, hard" has carried off the gold medal both at the "Millers' Exhibition" in London and the great fair at San Francisco, which were held within a few years. Should we not feel proud of these facts if we are loyal Canadians?

Should we people of Nova Scotia not feel especially proud of our dear little province down by the sea? Where can we find a like place that has produced a greater number of remarkable men and great statesmen whose names will be handed down through history to the generations to come? Where on the face of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.)