

CANADA AND THE FRENCH-CANADIAN

AMONG the indirect results of the South African war, of a decade ago, were two which have had a vital bearing on the relations between Canada and the Empire. In the first place, the events of 1899 so inflamed colonial patriotism that within an astonishingly short time Canada and her sister dominions were sending contingents across oceans to aid the Mother Country in her struggle with the Boers. This outburst of patriotic fervour following close after Canada's tariff enactment of 1897, whereby preferential concessions were granted to Great Britain, gave an impetus to imperialism, a movement seeking closer Empire relations—at least, among the self-governing units of the Empire. The second result, referred to above, was even more unexpected. Because of the war and the sending of Canadian soldiers to South Africa many French-Canadian leaders were led to define their attitude towards the British Empire.

Notwithstanding their repeated expressions of loyalty and the statement of one of their leaders, that "the present attitude of the French Canadian is one of content,"¹ the bulk of Canada's French population will never love the English. The wholesale acceptance by French Canada of a Canadian nationalism in preference to one of a more British or imperial complexion is not due, however, to events of recent years. The situation can be explained only by reference to the commonly known fact that Canada is peopled by two races, which are dissimilar in language, religion, and traditions, as well as in origin. The races are descended from the two great European nations which for hundreds of years were hereditary enemies.

¹ Mr. Henry Bourassa, *Monthly Review*, October, 1902.