

Austria-Hungary brings us into the tangled Balkan question. We were at one time accustomed to regard the affairs of Bulgaria and Serbia as of little reality, as a war beyond the foot-lights. We have been taught that a Balkan quarrel can draw a Canadian army into Europe.

We have learnt much of France since the War. The French psychology has been revealed and vindicated. We are, however, largely ignorant of the constitution of the country. One asks, how can a stable government be compatible with such frequent changes of Ministry?

Again, the French constitution offers a study in centralization: what is the effect of the absence of local government? The French Colonial Empire offers an interesting subject for consideration. To what extent have they been successful?

Of Russia we were most in ignorance. Little as we knew of her before the Revolution, we know less now. What exactly were the "dark forces" which were overthrown in March? What composes the elements in the new government, the liberal middle-class and the social democrats? What is the attitude of the Peasant? And most interesting of all, where stands the Church?

Finally, the whole point of all these suggestions is that Canada, for many years sheltered and in the main unconscious of world movements only faintly perceived, has found herself a definite element in world politics. Try as we may, we can never again be a hermit community; and if our democracy is to do its duty by itself and the world as a member of the committee of nations, it must study the elements that make up what we call foreign politics. Perhaps the word foreign politics is not a very good one, looked at from the point of view of human brotherhood. There is, after all, only one key to the knowledge of world affairs, and that is the desire to do something for the world; and if we are to do this in a truly democratic way we must all devote some time to studying affairs outside our own country. As our point of contact with the outside world is in and through the Empire, the study of inter-Imperial relations and the study of foreign relations are complementary and essential to each other.