

afraid of imperilling them by any change in the political situation of their country. They feel that a union with the United States might have for them undesirable results, since it is scarcely likely that the French would be successful in securing from the American republic such privileges as are theirs to-day under Great Britain. Furthermore, their influence would be lessened. Instead of forming one-third of the population, as they do in Canada, they would represent less than one-fortieth of the hypothetical state. The dangers of such union, however, would probably be preferred to the evils believed to be inherent in any scheme of close imperial federation. Under the United States system of administration the French-Canadian feels that he would, at all events, be able to preserve the self-government of his own province. The question of such union with the American republic is discussed by Mr. Bourassa in his candid and suggestive treatise entitled "*Grande-Bretagne et Canada*." "A young nation," he declares, "has nothing to lose and everything to gain in having an alternative choice in achieving its destiny. Under the British régime we are able always to change our allegiance. Once we become Americans, the union is absolute, at least for a long period."

All things considered, the French, therefore, will continue, probably for an indefinite period, to show opposition to annexation proposals. And the English-speaking Canadian, at heart, is not much less of a Canadian nationalist than his French brother. But all seem agreed that closer commercial relations with the United States are desirable. It should be borne in mind that a commercial union of the two countries might conceivably pave the way for closer political relations at some future time. This desire for better trade arrangements with the United States, however, does not blind the Canadian to the claims of the Mother Country, as Mr. Fielding, the Canadian minister of finance, showed in a recent speech in London.¹ "In not

¹ Speech at Dominion Day banquet, July 1st, 1910.