

THE NATIONAL SENTIMENT IN CANADA

SOME years ago the serenity of that useful institution in London which has been founded in the interest of colonial development and imperial union, known as the Royal Colonial Institute, appears to have been for a moment sadly disturbed by the title of a paper which I had the honour of contributing to its proceedings. Taking then as always a natural pride in the progress of my native country, and having an unswerving confidence in her ability sooner or later to take a high position among the communities of the world, I endeavoured as far as I was able to show what the sagacity of her statesmen and the energy of her people had already achieved in the course of a few decades of years, and to indulge in some sanguine predictions of the bright future that was evidently in store for the Dominion. The audience was composed, as is usually the case at meetings of this Society, of many distinguished gentlemen, who were quite ready to admit the truth of all the paper set forth in praise of Canada and to wish her in eloquent terms every success in peopling and developing the northern half of this Continent. But some of these gentlemen—not Canadians, of course—as I have said, had their mental equilibrium affected because this paper bore the title of "The National Development of Canada." From the comments that were passed on words written innocently, one would have imagined that a serious blow had been levelled at the integrity of the Empire. My representative on this occasion, the Honorary Secretary, now Sir Frederick Young—for I was not in England at the time—considered the matter of so much gravity that he explained that I was not only a true Canadian but a loyal supporter of imperial connection. Whether the title was apt or not, it certainly conveyed the exact meaning of the essay, and on numerous other occasions since then it has been used without