

Publishing Office:  
1100 Bute Street, Vancouver, B.C.  
Telephone:  
Seymour 6048



D. A. CHALMERS  
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Committee of Literary  
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For Community Service—Social, Educational, Literary and Religious; but Independent of Party, Sect or Faction  
"BE BRITISH" COLUMBIANS!

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## CANADA'S DESTINY?:

(1.) Independence?; (2.) To Join the United States?; or (3.) To Lead in an Inter-Empire (with U.S.) Development Movement?

FROM A MULTIPLICITY OF LOCAL EVENTS AND INTERESTS, each well worthy of comment, we turn again to the larger question of Canada's destiny. As the whole is greater than its part, so the welfare of British Columbia and the vast Canadian West is bound up in what may happen in London, Ottawa, and other Empire or Dominion Capitals.

RECENTLY A CRITICAL READER, whose candour we respect, accused this Magazine (or its editor) of being "imperialistic in the extreme." It having been our lot in other years to come under the spell of Statesmen like Lord Rosebery, with his Empire-building vision, we make no apology for the pre-disposition of the British-born. On the other hand, as one among citizens of the Canadian West, we believe we may, without being justly charged with inconsistency, record that we hold that members of that Imperialistic race must not be expected to retain the same vision indefinitely—REGARDLESS OF THE CHANGES IN ACTION OF THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT.

THE SECESSION OF THE UNITED STATES no doubt taught the Motherland a lesson in Colonization from which she has profited in succeeding generations. But the complexity and progress in the conditions of Empire expansion in modern times, may make it desirable, and even necessary, that the Powers-that-be behind the Throne, should be ever alert to the actions and re-actions taking place in the outer portions of the Empire, which, in each separate Dominion, to citizens living and working THERE, is an important—indeed, the important—Centre of Empire TO THEM.

SINCE OUR BRIEF REPLY TO THE CRITIC of our Imperialism was published (in the April Magazine) we have been more than ever concerned to "size up", so far as numerous opportunities have permitted, the trend of public thought, and to note representative individual expressions on the important question of Canada's position, (1), internally; (2), in relation to the United States; and (3) with regard to the Mother Country and the Empire generally.

ONE OF THE FIRST DUTIES of mortals in this life is to learn to face the facts, whether or not these be as they would like them. Camouflage may have its uses in Peace as well as in War, and we know it is not always wise to enlarge upon things at their worst, especi-

ally when that worst may be exceptional and not general. But when one finds a number of men—unrelated in time, position, etc.—giving expression to sentiments which have a kinness of questioning in them, perhaps one can best prove his loyalty to his Western Homeland, as well as to the British Empire, by plainly indicating the conditions, and the attitude of mind revealed—and thereby, it may be, do our bit in increasing the alertness and activity of the Responsible Authorities in London and elsewhere.

NO GOVERNMENTS OR AUTHORITIES, in Canada or elsewhere in the Empire may be able to control public opinion, but in most cases, Provincial, Dominion and Imperial, if their Ministers and Cabinets are "on the job" they may directly and indirectly see to it that, while various forms of propaganda permeate a community, they themselves do not remain inactive or negative.

THE SAIL PER C. P. R. STEAMER from Vancouver to Nanaimo is only about two or three hours, but many members of the Vancouver Kiwanis Club must have a pleasant memory associated with a recent trip there. Though it was early in the season the weather was ideal—a day like the best of mid-summer days in Britain. Detached from business cares, individual members of the company settled into random groups on deck, and opinions were exchanged with that freedom which is possible or common only when men, linked with kindred interests, feel that they can open their minds to each other.

HERE WE GOT OUR FIRST IMPRESSION (following our former writing on the subject) of how a certain measure of detachment from, if not also criticism of, great Britain might easily become more pronounced. Two Englishmen-born both now settled in business and doing well in this Farthest West, spoke of their impressions in re-visiting the Old Land. Like most others who have spent any length of time in Canada, especially in British Columbia, they made clear that they could not readily contemplate settling again in Britain. That is natural enough, and needs little explanation to those who know the general conditions of life and living in the Old Land and Overseas.

But what remained with us was this: These Englishmen—in common with many Scots folk of whom we know—saw life in the Homelands as in some ways

"cribbed, cabined and confined"; the people apparently contented to be in what seemed—to the Empire travellers—a routine condition; and, what was perhaps most disappointing of all, evidently often disposed to speak and act as if "what was good enough for their fathers was good enough for them."

WITHOUT WISHING TO BE CLASSIFIED AS A "superior person," the writer may remark that Shakespeare's line "Home-keeping youth have ever homely wit," suggests a far-reaching truth affecting all ages and stages of life. And we venture in a word to say that if the bands that bind the British Empire should be so stretched or neglected that they hang loose, so as to be in danger of losing strength, it may be due to the people of the PARENT HOMELANDS betraying a detachment from or indifference to the interests and outlook of the virile and reasonably ambitious PIONEERS in Empire Building ON THEIR OWN in the dominions beyond the seas.

WE KNOW THAT THE MOTHERLAND HAS MUCH TO TEACH US; but she may also have something to learn from her enterprising children in the Dominions who, unsatisfied or dissatisfied with the limited horizon around them at "Home," have courageously fared forth to make their homes—if not their mark and something more—in the, comparatively, sparsely peopled places of the Empire,—where, however, assuming reasonable foresight is exercised and steady work maintained,—not by the clock but as duty calls,—the conditions of life may become much more tolerable and attractive for the many than (before the war at least) even in dear yet "dole-ful" Britain.

INDEED, TOO TOLERABLE AND TOO COMFORTABLE for the ordinary worker, it may sometimes seem: For just as the "British working man" in the pre-war generation had too often "to work the life out to keep the life in," so here in this Continental country, it sometimes seems that, with Labor Unions and what not, the plain working man or tradesman may, by questionable wage "standards", set by trade-union combinations, somehow command, not only a goodly "hire" for his labour, but one often out of proportion, compared with what falls to those who have to invest capital in money or brains, or both, and bear all the responsibility of organiza-