

## NO BELL: NO DECLARATION

Canada came third in North America's march to nationalism and self-government. But Canada has no Liberty Bell and no Declaration of Independence.

This is indeed one of the marvels of the nineteenth century, one of the unique and unprecedented achievements in North America's history: a country coming up from colonial dependence to national self-government, not by revolution, but by evolution; not by war and estrangement, but by development and co-operation: a nation growing up out of a colony, as an oak grows out of an acorn: a nation that had no occasion for a Liberty Bell, and that, developing into self-government, as a youth develops into mature manhood, had no need to make formal declaration of its independence. That is Canada's contribution to the higher politics of North America.

The American colonies in the eighteenth century declared to the world the right of a free people to govern themselves; and this free American Republic is the fulfilment of that declaration. In the nineteenth century the remaining colonies and territories of North America achieved self-government without revolution and without sacrificing the historic background of