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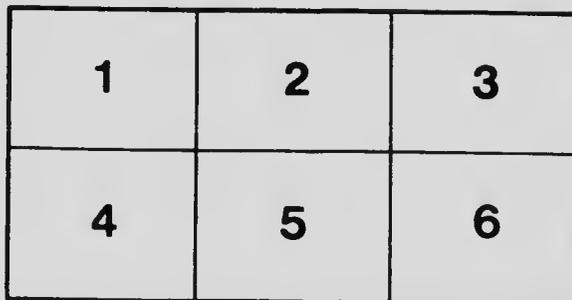
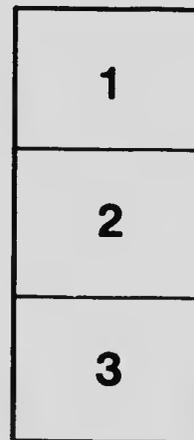
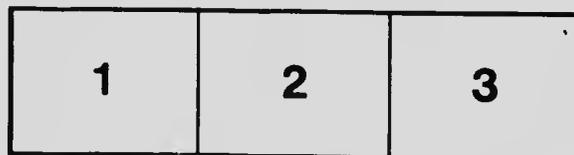
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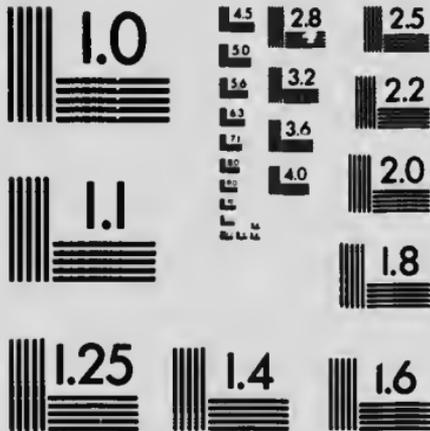
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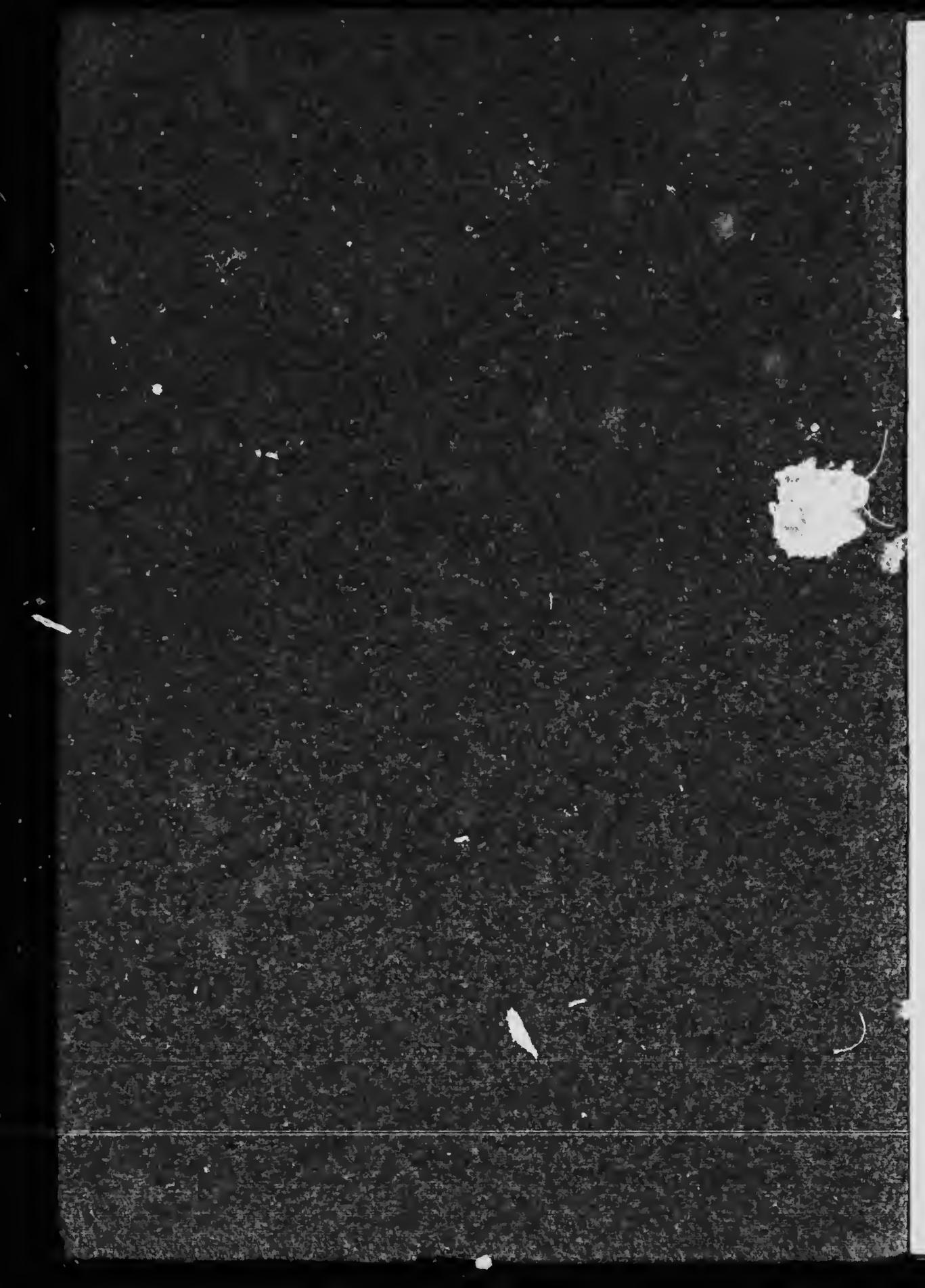
Address

by

B. E. Walker

in

at the Dinner Michigan Bankers' Association,
held at the King Edward Hotel,
Toronto, Ontario, July 28,
1904



ADDRESS

BY

B. E. WALKER

at the Dinner of the Michigan Bankers Association,
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Mr. Walker's Address

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am not asked, you will notice, to respond to-night to any toast or to any particular sentiment. I am very glad, indeed, that this is the case, because I was enjoying myself in the country yesterday, when I heard that I had been invited to be here to-night, and there was no intimation that I would be asked to speak. I do not need, I think, to say to you that we are very glad, indeed, to welcome you. I will at once corroborate Mr. Livingstone's statement that when we first heard that the Michigan Bankers' Association was to pay a visit to Toronto, we quite understood that Toronto was an item in the itinerary of the Michigan Bankers' Association, and that no attention on our part was necessarily expected. But it would have been a very strange thing if Canadians, who are also citizens of Toronto, and the Bankers of Toronto should have allowed such an occasion to pass without showing in some way their good feeling towards the Bankers of Michigan, as well as the good feeling which exists in this country towards all citizens of the United States, and we have, therefore, been very glad indeed to do anything we could to aid in making your sojourn in Toronto as happy as possible. This is, I think, one of the two places outside of Great Britain where they have been taking a record of the weather longer than in any other place in the British Empire, and we thought that here in Toronto we controlled the weather of the Province of Ontario. The gentleman in charge of the weather department is a gentleman in whom most of us rely, and when we found the water taps turned on this morning we felt that something had surely gone wrong. It cleared up, however, this afternoon to some extent, and we did what we could to atone for that blunder in the behavior of the weather this morning. Your president, in the course of his remarks, dealt at some length with the

relations existing between the United States and Canada in their broadest aspect. I do not intend to speak on such a wide subject, but I wish to interest you for a few minutes in the relations between the Province of Ontario and the State of Michigan. Before doing so, I would like to say that the action of the British Admiral, to which your president so feelingly referred, was a very natural thing indeed. I remember quite well that at the dinner in connection with the meeting of the Canadian Bankers' Association at Halifax, while proposing the health of the President of the United States, I recalled some recent incidents, sufficient of themselves to show that British sailors have reason to feel friendly towards those of the United States. Whatever differences there may have been between the people of Great Britain and the United States, there has never been in recent years anything but the best of feeling between the sailors of both countries. At Halifax I ventured to recall the occasion when England, with a rather difficult task before her, went into the siege of Alexandria, and the American man-of-war sailed up and down, playing "God Save the Queen," and looking for an opportunity to render assistance to wounded British sailors. We didn't feel cross because the United States Congress showed some desire to discipline your admiral. That feature of it passed away, and we remember nothing but the good. We do not forget that when the vessels of the United States, Germany and Great Britain were being battered to pieces on those coral reefs at Samoa, and when the British vessel decided it would face the gale and put to sea, that the sailors on an American ship cheered the British ship to the echo as it went out to take its chance of safety or of destruction. I recalled also the time when the sailors of different nations came ashore at New York, I think, on the way to the World's Fair at Chicago. The tars of the several different nations marched up Broadway. I was there at the time. You can imagine the cheers and applause when the tars of

the United States went by, but I heard the roars of the people in New York along Broadway when the British tars marched along, and no United States politician need tell me what the real feelings of the American people would be if the British people were in danger. [Applause.]

But I would like, if it would not weary you, to talk of other things—we have been discussing present day, practical things—may we not go back to more romantic times and recall what Ontario and Michigan have in common in their history? I think there is no Province in Canada and no State in the United States where the relations are quite as close and as peculiar as those which exist between Michigan and Ontario. To those of you who know your Parkman, what I have to say will not be new, but in our Anglo-Saxon conceit, how often do we remember what we owe to the religious zeal of the priests and the military and fur-trading discoverers of the French regime? How often do we reflect that the initial incident in the history we have in common was when Champlain and the Récollet friar, Le Caron, in 1615 discovered the great lake that lies between us? How clearly do we understand the significance of that division of the territory among the few Récollet priests in consequence of which Le Caron started in Canada the Huron mission, and of the more powerful movement of the Jesuits which, while it resulted in the martyrdom of Brébeuf and Lalemant and the ruin of this mission to the Hurons, also caused the establishment of mission posts at Sault Ste. Marie, Michillimackinac, Detroit and Green Bay? Here are the initial points of your settlement and of your civilization. Here are the events which made the later discoveries of La Salle, Hennepin and Marquette possible. But it may be argued that the aims of France were only to convert Indians and to acquire territory, that these aims did not include industrial development as we understand it, and, therefore, interesting and romantic as is this history, it has not much relation to our present condition. But we must

not forget that there was another class of men in French Canada beside the hero-priest and the hero-soldier. As the French-Canadian civilization grew there were men who did not wish to be priests, who did not wish to be soldiers, and who were often natives of the country. These men, the *coureurs de bois*, were doubtless a bad lot. Few good things are said about them in history, but at one time they numbered 800 out of a total population of 10,000. They roamed over the northern country, marrying Indian women, and living by fur-trading and sometimes by less creditable adventure. The greatest leader of these men was DuLhut, and you have, as you know, honored him by naming the city of Duluth after him. Bad as they were, they are the men who developed all through North America that extraordinary ability as woodsmen, boatmen, trappers, and generally as intelligent men in the forest and on the lakes and rivers, which distinguishes our two countries as compared with European countries. I think it is quite safe to say that if it were not for these peculiar qualities in the French-Canadians, many of whom settled in such States as Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, we would never have mastered the forests as we have. We owe much of what we have been able to do to the descendants of those wild devils who would neither be soldiers nor priests, and who married the Indian women, raised their families in the forests, and one of whom was this man after whom you have named Duluth. It is, therefore, not too much to say that certain forces in the industrial development of both countries had their origin in French Canada.

Then we have the deeply interesting fact that we in these two countries of Michigan and Ontario possess natural resources of much the same character, and were also given by nature the mutual guardianship of a greater portion of the Great Lakes than any other part of North America. The nature of that great trust even in the first

half of the last century was very little appreciated. Canada joins with you today in guarding the Sault Ste. Marie canal, although it sends as yet but a very small percentage of the freight which passes through the canal. What we thus did together has placed the Sault Ste. Marie canal ahead of any other roadstead in the world. Between us, then, there is this wonderful lake system left to us by nature.

In our traffic with each other, especially in the lumber traffic, we have had very peculiar relations. When I was a young man it seemed to me that we Canadians were very anxious to leave a lot of money in the Michigan lumber camps, but after a while it turned around the other way, and one way and another the situation has been evened up. I think it must be admitted that our relations with one another in the matter of lumber have not been particularly creditable to our neighborliness or to our common sense. We have together acted about as foolishly as people could with a great gift of nature. You had the most magnificent forests that were ever given to a people. You cut them away as rapidly as possible. You might have largely saved them, but you wouldn't take our lumber when it was cheaper than your own. You waited until it went up to many times the price that you might have bought it at. We got angry because you put a duty on our lumber, and we decided that if you wanted our logs you would have to come to Canada and saw them into lumber first or let us do it. But the past is past, and I think it would be well for the people of Michigan as well as the people of Ontario to realize that we may still be large owners of timber, that we have through the lakes the cheapest means of transportation that a country could well have, and that if we destroy entirely and forever this great source of wealth, we shall surely have been profligate to the last degree in the great boon which nature gave to us. We have talked for a generation about reforestation, and much of the area of Michigan and certainly much of Canada is more suitable for forestry than for agriculture.

Let us hope that we will really do something to this end. But I would like to speak further regarding the relations that are apt to exist between us who border on the Great Lakes. It is easy for people as high-spirited and full-blooded as the Anglo-Saxon to quarrel. Quarrelling is one of the easiest things in the world. We have every reason, in view of our important mutual interests, to exercise towards each other the greatest possible forbearance, and I do not hesitate to say that if for any reason at some future time we fail to settle our differences without resort to arms, then we shall both have to answer for a great crime. If we are to live alongside of one another through the coming centuries--and you can put it out of your minds that we will ever become a part of the United States--it must be as separate nations, we not envying you in any way your magnificent prosperity, and we feeling that you should not envy us. And if we are to be bounded for a large part of our adjoining territory only by an astronomical line, then it behooves us in our intercourse with one another never to allow any issue to get beyond the point where it can be settled by reason and argument. We have every interest to work out our separate destinies alongside of each other, and to work them in their different national qualities as fully as possible.

It is a fact that a great many Americans are coming into the Northwest of this country. It must have been a curious spectacle to the people of other continents to watch your population until it grew to seventy-five or eighty millions and to see this country struggling along from year to year without adding materially to the total of its population, indeed losing a part of its population steadily to the United States, but it was a natural process while it lasted. The enterprising Canadian went to the United States when opportunity was greater than at home. This was a natural movement, and it was bound to go on until, because of changes in the environment, it could go on no longer. It

was just as clear ten or fifteen years ago as it is now. that when the free lands were gone and the chances for the exploitation of new enterprises, such as farming, grain buying, railroading, telephones, mines, the retailing of land, etc., were largely over in the United States, you would come over and repeat these things in Canada, as that nature abhors a vacuum. The conditions unfavorable to Canada were bound to be that way until you became uncomfortably full, until indeed the chances for American enterprise largely lessened, but they were bound not to stay that way after that condition had changed. Before the country west of the Ohio River was opened up there was a movement into Canada by Americans who had brains, and who felt that there was a better opportunity here. Your people are now repeating this on a much larger scale. Many of our new Western settlers are Canadians who went to the United States first from the East, and are now returning to another part of their own country. Your people have gone to our Northwest to aid in every species of exploitation. What they have done in Michigan and throughout your West they are destined to repeat in our country. We are destined to have in our country a constantly growing population, many of whom will be true Americans whose parents for two or three generations have been Americans, while many will have been born in the United States, but of foreign parentage. These are all going to be good citizens of Canada. Americans who have settled in Canada have rarely failed to become good Canadian citizens. We have several little advantages over you. We knight one of them every now and then. It is extraordinary the effect that this has. My own experience is that the grandchildren of those upon whom knighthood has been conferred are the most confirmed of our Tories. But whether we knight them or not, they cannot live without politics. The American-born citizen cannot live without politics, and as we have party government, they are sure to take sides almost at once. We

cannot get too many good Americans. We realize this because the settlement of the Northwest is that of a country requiring hardihood, and the very best settlers from any part of the world after our own people from Ontario, are the people from the Western States. We know that there are no better people to come into our country from outside than the people from the Western States, for several reasons. They are more intelligent than most European settlers; they are less afraid of the conditions; they have more money with which to start; they are fertile-minded and can help themselves better than most people; they are more like our own people, and they are absolutely nearer to us British than any other kind of people that can come except from Great Britain. I have met them in their new country, and no better citizens can be found. At the same time they retain their love for their own country. [Applause.] Your president said a man would not be a good citizen of an adopted country who did not love his own country. Many of you do not readily believe, however, that an American can come over here and be loyal to Canada. You think that a German may continue to love Germany and yet be loyal to the United States, but not that an American can be loyal to any other country than his own. But I am sure that we are going to experience just that. There will be good Americans who will leave your country now, and others will follow them for a long time to come. We will teach them the history of North America, and we will do it quite truthfully, too, and I have no doubt they will love our country as well as your own. I was on my way to Calgary from Edmonton two or three years ago. The wives of two American farmers who had evidently settled in Canada came into the car. I could not help listening to their conversation. One of them said her son had "gone in for two years." I thought to myself, "Goodness! What has happened to the young man? surely he has not committed any serious offence already for which he must go to jail." It

turned out, however, that she was talking about the Northwest Mounted Police, and it seemed that her son thought the best introduction to Canadian life in that ranching country was to join the body of horsemen from whom that splendid body of soldiers in South Africa, the Strathcona Horse, were largely recruited. It was very hard for me to understand how a young American could do that, but the more I thought of it the more I respected him for it. This was the land of his adoption; he wanted employment, and he decided that he would enter the service and ride a horse for Her Majesty and know all about the country before he bought land for himself.

The chief aim of my remarks tonight has been to show that we on this side of the line do not see any reason why the relations between the United States and this country, or why the relations between the United States and Great Britain should not be friendly. England has shown not only on the sea, but on the land, that she wishes to be to the last degree friendly. Indeed, I have told them in England that they make a mistake, that they make you think that England is afraid of you. But truly she does not desire your friendship, and she is too great a nation to try to hide the fact that if she has the assured friendship of the United States, if she can have the United States at her side, she can alone, or the two together, can police the high seas against the aggression of any foreign country, and do all that is necessary for the preservation of peace.

Gentlemen, if this lamentable war that is going on in Asia ends, as I think we are confident it will end, in Japan driving Russia out of Manchuria, we need not fear any yellow peril. The feeling seems to grow that the yellow peril is really the power of Russia, that yellow peril, which was doubtless in Napoleon's mind when he said that "If you scratch a Russian you will find a Tartar." Japan has had its own splendid civilization, nor is there any peril in the peculiar civilization of China, which is as different from

Japan in everything that relates to nationality as anything can be. If we are to make up our minds that the Anglo-Saxon race is, so far as Western nations are concerned, to police the Pacific in which the interests of the United States are now larger than those of Great Britain, and if we conclude that we can do this best with the co-operation of the one Eastern nation which has shown that it sympathizes with Western civilization, then the material peace of the world, both East and West, rests with Great Britain, the United States and the Empire of Japan. [Applause.]

