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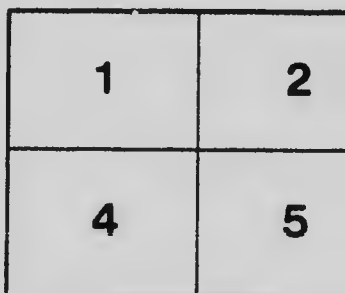
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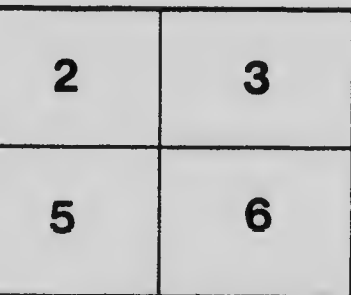
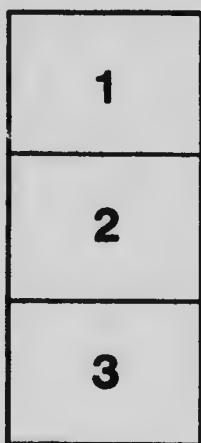
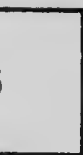
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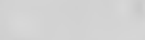
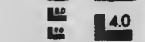
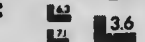
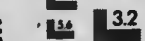
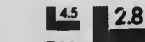
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No. 4

# THE ROUND TABLE IN CANADA

A CANADIAN MOVEMENT FOR  
DEMOCRATIC IMPERIALISM

"W" I TO STUDY"

*Notes and Suggestions  
for Round Table Groups*

Offices: 84 ST. MARY ST., TORONTO

RB39003

# The Round Table Groups

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The Round Table in Canada is a movement to encourage the study of the questions arising out of our relation to the British Empire. Experience has shown that such an end is best served by the formation of study and discussion Groups, and this is the method that has been followed by The Round Table. Many Groups have already been organized throughout Canada. Their members are pursuing courses of study, and are holding debates and discussions, which are not only of use in their own education, but are of service to the community in awakening an interest in politics in the larger and better sense. From some of the Groups more recently formed have come requests for advice as to what lines of study they might most profitably follow at the present time, and in particular for the recommendation of books which are accessible. To meet the first demand, this small pamphlet has been prepared, in the hope that the suggestions it contains may be of some use. The second need will be met by the publication from time to time of a leaflet containing suggestions as to books.

Comprehensive schemes of Study are provided in three excellent pamphlets reprinted for The Round Table in Canada by courtesy of the Council for the Study of International Relations, by whom they were originally published. They are:

“The British Empire.”

“War and Democracy.”

“British Foreign Policy.”

These pamphlets are full of helpful suggestions for the work of Groups, both as regards subjects for discussion and lists of obtainable books. They may be had by any member of a Round Table Group from The Secretary, The Round Table, 84 St. Mary St., Toronto.

To supplement the syllabuses of study in the pamphlets mentioned above, the following subjects are suggested for the consideration of Round Table Groups. In some cases the subject can be adequately dealt with in one evening; in others



the topic may be subdivided, and dealt with in its various phases in several meetings. The subjects immediately arising in connection with the organization of the Empire and its place in the world will be found to involve practically all the great world questions of the day; and while The Round Table does confine itself to the study of the Imperial problem, there is room within such limits for the widest kind of investigation.

### NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS

NOTE I. Almost the first thing that strikes one in thinking about the British Empire is the fact that with it a number of different races and nations continue to live contentedly because they have room within the Empire to satisfy all their essential national and racial instincts without interference. Lord Acton, in a very interesting lecture on nationality, suggests that the state most likely to retain and expand the idea of liberty is the one that contains within itself various races. He mentions Austria as an example. We all know that Austria has a great variety of races, and extremely little liberty; but there is undoubtedly a certain reason in what Lord Acton says. The best friend of autocracy is uniformity, and the greatest enemy of autocracy is well-developed variety. The reasons for Austria's failure to acquire liberty are in the main historical, and are well worth careful study.

A different example of a variety of peoples in one state is to be found in the United States of America. There the underlying ideal generally accepted is one, not of harmonious juxtaposition, but of chemical fusion, as it has been expressed; the idea being that the United States should produce a new psychic type, the product not of any dominant incoming type, but of the blend of all. Such a question as this provides interesting material for study.

NOTE II. More or less associated with the subject of Note I. is the general problem of internationalism. It seems obvious, although it is not generally quite realized, that internationalism without nations is impossible, and that internationalism does not mean the destruction of differences in human societies, but the creation between them of some harmonizing principle that will begin by lessening the frequency of war, and

end perhaps by bringing about entire cessation of it. The consideration of the British Empire as an actual, successful experiment in internationalism is most important. To all those who value the ideal of a lasting international agreement minimizing the chances of war and upholding the ideals of liberty, the view of the British Empire as an international state including about a quarter of the population of the world would naturally appeal as not only extraordinarily interesting, but suggesting the infinite importance of preserving what we have in the way of internationalism. In this connection it is surely very important to keep in mind the essential difference between this ideal, which serves to preserve all the diverse interests of human life, and the vague cosmopolitanism that refuses to recognize the ethical value of human differences. "For God fulfils Himself in many ways, lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

NOTE III. A very important field of study is the distribution of industrial materials such as metals throughout the British Empire, and its relation to the entire ascertained resources of the world. Undoubtedly one very important factor in the great international co-ordination that we are especially interested in considering is the best common use to be made of the total resources of the Empire. In truth, the realization that there is an almost ascertainable limit to the world's resources in metals, for example, brings us face to face with the necessity of carefully considering how we can best conserve what we have. This has been done in detail to some extent in various countries, but not in the Empire as a whole.

NOTE IV. Closely related to the question of the distribution of industrial materials is the very far-reaching one of strategical points of both military and commercial character. When the Turks invaded Europe, and the old land routes were closed, the sea became the great channel for world trade. With the development of world trade, the British Empire in its gradual expansion obtained possession of a great many points that were strategical from both a military and a commercial point of view; and with their control of the seas their position seemed to be unassailable, as well as more or less exclusive. But the German policy of expansion in the East represents not

only a desire for new territory, containing vast resources in the way of raw material and foodstuffs, but a realization of the fact that the old Eastern Routes can be again utilized by a system of railways, and a new and dangerous menace thus established against British communications. Asia Minor and Mesopotamia have always been the clearing-house between the East and the West, and in seizing Turkey the Germans believe that they have acquired the key not only to these regions, but to India on the one hand and to Egypt on the other, as well. India, of course, is in itself a complete goal; Egypt represents a simpler problem, but is also a right of way to other regions in Africa.

The establishment of a network of railways through these regions means a very serious change in the whole relation of military and trade communications.

NOTE V. Another subject is the question of shipping. Every year the market of international trading by sea becomes more important. We in Canada, for example, are especially interested in the question of ocean freights. We cannot allow the principle of "what the traffic will bear" to be applied without restriction to ocean freight rates. Railway rates have been legally regulated, but there is no such control of the carrying trade on the ocean, which must inevitably be in the hands of a very few. The accumulating interest on our external debt and the amount of our necessary imports make the matter of our export trade increasingly important. The whole question of our shipping relations with the rest of the world is well worth a very careful consideration.

NOTE VI. Most of us have read widely about the countries at war, our allies and our enemies. Elsewhere in The Round Table publications detailed suggestions are given as to the field of study. Germany to most people is perhaps rather well exploited, and we are familiar with the Teutonic system and methods by which every department of state was made subservient to the one supreme end. Austria-Hungary offers a different picture. To students of the British Empire the dual monarchy is of special interest. To what extent does its constitutional system solve the racial difficulty? What is the nature of the Hungarian element in the government? A study of

Austria-Hungary brings us into the tangled Balkan question. We were at one time accustomed to regard the affairs of Bulgaria and Serbia as of little reality, as a war beyond the foot-lights. We have been taught that a Balkan quarrel can draw a Canadian army into Europe.

We have learnt much of France since the War. The French psychology has been revealed and vindicated. We are, however, largely ignorant of the constitution of the country. One asks, how can a stable government be compatible with such frequent changes of Ministry?

Again, the French constitution offers a study in centralization: what is the effect of the absence of local government? The French Colonial Empire offers an interesting subject for consideration. To what extent have they been successful?

Of Russia we were most in ignorance. Little as we knew of her before the Revolution, we know less now. What exactly were the "dark forces" which were overthrown in March? What composes the elements in the new government, the liberal middle-class and the social democrats? What is the attitude of the Peasant? And most interesting of all, where stands the Church?

Finally, the whole point of all these suggestions is that Canada, for many years sheltered and in the main unconscious of world movements only faintly perceived, has found herself a definite element in world politics. Try as we may, we can never again be a hermit community; and if our democracy is to do its duty by itself and the world as a member of the committee of nations, it must study the elements that make up what we call foreign politics. Perhaps the word foreign politics is not a very good one, looked at from the point of view of human brotherhood. There is, after all, only one key to the knowledge of world affairs, and that is the desire to do something for the world; and if we are to do this in a truly democratic way we must all devote some time to studying affairs outside our own country. As our point of contact with the outside world is in and through the Empire, the study of inter-Imperial relations and the study of foreign relations are complementary and essential to each other.

Anyone who wishes either to join or to form a Round Table Group is invited to communicate with the Secretary, The Round Table, 84 St. Mary Street, Toronto, who will furnish all necessary information.



