

WILL CANADA BE ANNEXED?

(By Arnold White.)

Shall we lose Canada? "No!" a thousand times, no, is the reply that naturally leaps to the lips of every loyal subject of King Edward throughout the empire. And yet influences are at work which point in a different direction. The silent forces that shape national destiny are majestically un-mindful of the desire and even the anguish of loyal minorities. Facts point to an early rearrangement of the several parts of the British empire, which cannot for long be relegated to the future; and no integral part of the empire is so ripe for change of one kind or the other as the dominion of Canada. Has not Mr. Chamberlain said as much?

Many Americans, Canadians and Englishmen tell us that they foresee the absorption of Canada by the United States of America to be her manifest destiny. Peaceful penetration of American ideas into the dominion is a process that may be deplored by loyalists on both sides of the Atlantic, but it cannot be denied. The Dundonald episode points it is true, rather to separate national existence than to absorption of the dominion within the political system of the United States, but nobody doubts that if separation comes to pass it will be the prelude to absorption. Canada cannot stand alone.

I purpose in this article to give dispassionate and impartial examination of the leading facts on both sides. The American newspapers, for the most part, wisely avoid the subject, as its discussion by Americans would give offense in this country. The wise and statesmanlike view of responsible American writers is to the effect that the gradual attraction of a nation of 80,000,000 people is irresistible when exercised over a nation numbering 5,500,000. The magnetic influence of the United States is being doubly reinforced by political events in Canada and by the swing of the imperial pendulum which may already be discerned in the united kingdom as a consequence of the Boer war.

The most significant if not the leading factor in the problem is the discovery by Englishmen that the epithet "foreigner," inadvertently applied by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to Lord Dundonald on June 10, reveals an unsuspected point of view in the spokesman and leader of 1,649,371 Roman Catholic Canadians of French extraction. This revelation of aloofness from men of the English race coming out of the mouth of the Canadian premier is an event that may be said to mark an epoch.

The Canadian prime minister aware that the disclosure of his true sentiments as to the allegiance of Englishmen would be an indiscretion, is only surprised into such disclosure owing to his habitual mental attitude towards England and Englishmen.

It may be said on the other hand, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was thinking in the French language; and since the word "stranger" and the word "foreigner" are identical, there is nothing in his remark.

Sir Wilfrid, however, is a bilingual statesman of ripe experience. Sexagenarian politicians, with mastery over two languages, do not blurt out inconvenient truths unless they feel deeply. The explanation of the Canadian premier, however, supplies the proof which is not logically established by his reference to Lord Dundonald as a "foreigner." In defending himself against the attack of his political opponents, the Canadian premier pointedly proclaimed his allegiance, not to King Edward VII, or to the British connection, but to "British institutions."

British institutions will remain in Canada whatever her destiny may be; British institutions exist in the United States today. What is the constitution, the system of jurisprudence and the common law of the United States but the fundamental British institutions, the principles of which have been transplanted wherever the British race has taken root? British institutions will remain in Canada when the painter is out, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier's loyalty to British institutions is an eloquent reminder to the British empire and to the American people of the extent of his loyalty to the British crown.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's language is supported even more forcibly by his acts. The union of the British empire today is maintained only by the monarchy in the world of ideas and by sea power in the world of force. Neither to the monarchy nor to the maintenance of British sea power does Canada contribute one cent.

Without sea power the British empire would collapse like the Campanile at Rome. Germany would take South Africa; the Japanese and the Germans would fight for Australia; India would fall to Russia, and Canada, with or without a fight would fall to the United States.

It was sea power that enabled us to crush the peasants of the Transvaal, just as it is the sea power, paid for by England, which enables the Canadian to strip and search Japanese gentlemen and tourists who desire to land at Victoria or Vancouver.

Does Canada value British sea power? Not to the extent of one dollar. The registered shipping of Canada amounts to 6838 vessels of 652,613 tons gross. For the defense of this shipping the taxpayers of the united kingdom maintain 13 British men-of-war on the North American station and seven on the Pacific station. To the maintenance of these 20 ships, Canada does not contribute a shilling.

Canadian fisheries produce over \$26,000,000 a year, but they are protected by gunboats paid for by the badly housed and underfed population of the united kingdom. The expenditure of the latter is \$5 per head per annum for naval defense alone. Canada contributes nothing.

On this side of the Atlantic I begin to observe a movement of discontent with the present conditions of empire. The situation that now exists, through indefensible, has produced no unfriendliness. On the contrary, there has never existed kindlier feeling between the democracies of both countries. Englishmen are grateful to Canada for the splendid troops she sent to South Africa, but the fact is undeniable that the large majority of the Canadians who fought in South Africa were not only men of British birth, but Britishers who had only been in Canada a few years. The French Canadian troops, though high in quality, were few in number, and their departure was not viewed with favor by their co-religionists.

The result of the South African war has been a bitter disappointment to the average Englishman. There is an uneasy feeling prevalent that the loss of £250,000,000 and of 23,000 valuable lives has been incurred mainly for financial and cosmopolitan interests, which are rather German and Jewish than British or colonial. Furthermore, there is the profoundest disgust at the introduction of Chinese labor into South Africa, in the interest of the capitalists, and a democratic feeling is abroad, the like of which I do not remember in my lifetime.

This democratic feeling, while not incompatible with true imperialism, is not enamored with the imperialism which has for its object the enrichment of German Jews. While Englishmen, therefore, are grateful to Canadians for the help given in South Africa, there is a feeling that we both have been misled and that the time is arriving rapidly when the democracy of Canada and the democracy of England should frankly exchange ideas on the subject of the empire.

Canada does not pay for the maritime policing of the coast of Norfolk or Kent. Why should British workmen pay for policing Canadian fisheries? There is only one reason why we should continue to do so, and that is that unless we continue to present Canada with a free navy, a system of monarchy that costs Canada nothing, all the advantages to be derived from India with its available appointments, the universities, the British foreign office, the diplomatic service and gratuitous enjoyment of the British connection, Canada would cut the painter and set up as an independent power.

In the Alaska boundary question, the language employed by some Canadian statesmen could only be justified diplomatically on the assumption that their words were supported by the navy of Great Britain. There is an anomaly here of which thinking Englishmen begin to be aware. If we pay the piper, we should call the tune, but if the Canadians desire to name the melody, they must contribute to the cost of the band. They now propose to conduct their own foreign relations without navy or army of their own.

There are however, cogent reasons besides those of finance why Canada will not contribute to the cost of the British navy, of monarchy, or pay anything for the privilege of the British connection. The 2,229,600 Roman Catholics in lower Canada and the American immigration to the north-western provinces, which is proceeding at double the rate of the immigration

from England, are rapidly outnumbering the purely Anglo-Saxon element. In all Canada there are only 386,545 natives of the united kingdom. It is therefore not surprising that Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his heart of hearts regards Lord Dundonald and other Englishmen as "foreigners" and that the Canadian ministers do not in the inner recesses of their intelligence consider that the British navy is worth to them a copper coin.

Canada today owes its national existence to the forbearance and to the pacific policy of the United States. Canada neglects even such military preparation as would enable her to defend herself successfully against the United States. Her indifference to the British navy stares Downing street in the face. Does not this prove that the ruling classes in Canada neither fear the United States nor value the British connection?

A minority of Canadians are undoubtedly loyal to an extent which may be described as passionate. The church of Rome in lower Canada, moreover, enjoys a freedom which might not be accorded her under the Stars and Stripes; if therefore the tie with Great Britain is slender the movement towards disruption is feeble.

But the process of separation has begun. British immigration to Canada no longer consists of the material requisite for the manufacture of first rate colonists. 77 per cent of the inhabitants of the united kingdom live in streets. The majority of our immigrants to Canada are not of rural but of urban extraction. The immigrants from the United States, on the contrary, who are twice as numerous as the British, possess higher intellectual equipment and a physical ability better adapted for success in the struggle for life in the north-western provinces.

It is a fact that the English farmer and his sons who try their luck in Canada are some way behind the enterprising and alert Yankee who is acquainted with the latest methods of wringing wealth out of the soil. English conservatism and our insular habit of thinking ourselves better than anyone else is sometimes an impediment to the mastery of knowledge that is essential to success in farming.

The northwest of Canada is becoming Americanized under the influence of smart Yankee farmers and traders, who import the hustling methods in vogue south of the 49th parallel. There are 300,000,000 acres of wheat lands in western Canada of which barely one-third are utilized. The vacant lands can never be occupied by British immigrants, because only 13 per cent of our population, including the Irish and Scotch, live on the soil, and the majority of those are submerged in poverty owing to inadequate wages, unsanitary housing and too limited education. The vacant lands in Canada, therefore, will be filled up by men and women of other races, many of whom will maintain ties of affection and interest, not with England, but with the United States.

This brief review of the facts shows three streams of tendency proceeding on separate lines which point to the detachment of Canada from the British crown.

First, there is the magnetism of the stars on the dominion and the capacity of 80,000,000 people to give commercial benefits to 5,500,000, and thus appeal to those material considerations which, in our age, have so largely superseded the ideals and inspirations of a more religious era.

Secondly, there is the growing indifference of the rulers of Canada to the British connection and to the British crown, shown by Sir William Laurier's treatment of Lord Dundonald, by the neglect to contribute to the British navy, and by the assertion of Canadian nationality, although no preparation is made for war. The touchstone by which the condition of a nation may be judged safely is the standard or readiness for war accepted by rulers and people. The reason why efficient preparation for war by sea and land is the true touchstone of national wholeness, and vigor is because neither a democracy nor a despotism can prepare for successful war unless it knows the truth about itself and its rivals, and adapts war preparations to hard facts, not sacrificing them to political or other considerations. Efficient preparation for war, therefore, depends in the first instance upon moral, not physical, considerations—namely, willingness to know the truth about ourselves and our rivals, however unpleasant the truth may be.

Woodmen of the World

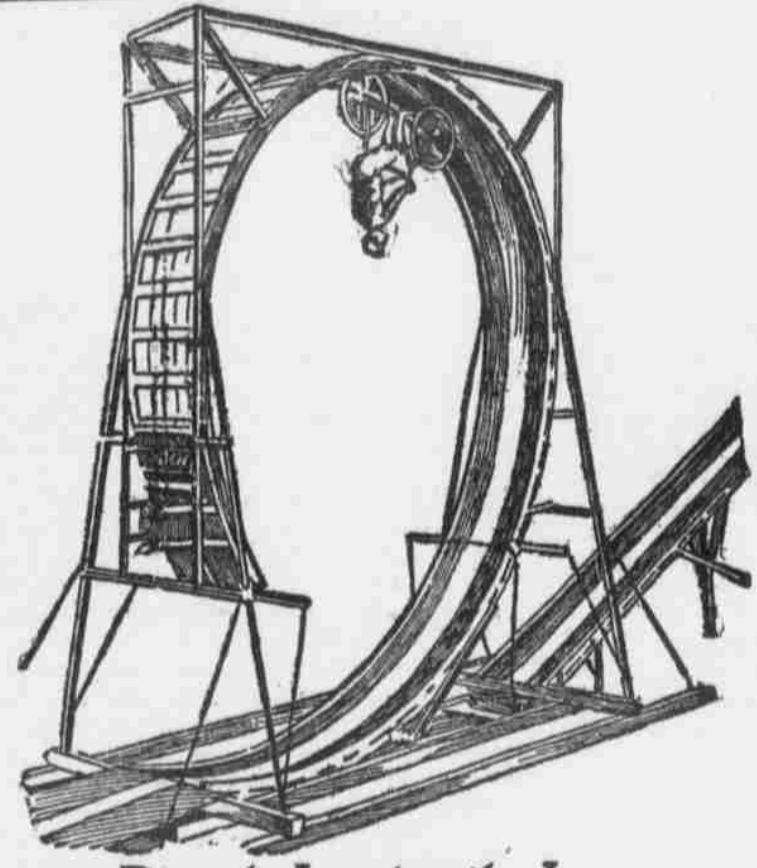
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The third element that points to the disorganization of Canada is the awakening of the British taxpayer to common sense views on the subject of empire. We are paying interest on a national debt of £798,349,190. This debt was incurred mainly in fighting five great wars with France, one of the chief results of which was the acquisition of the territory of the Canadian dominion, and the Australian continent. The failure to contribute to our imperial burdens raises the question as to how far it is worth the while of Englishmen to protect colonies, which are really nations, who refuse to make adequate preparations for war.

If England had been rushed into war with the United States over the Alaskan boundary, not a single inhabitant of these islands could possibly obtain any benefit from a war the main brunt of which would have fallen on them.

From the English point of view, therefore, a decision will have to be made shortly as to whether Canada will enter the circle of the empire, bearing its burdens as well as enjoying its privileges or whether she shall set up for herself and release the mother country from the expensive privilege of fighting her battles, though excluded from the determination of the policy out of which those battles will arise.

American statesmen, as I said at the beginning, have behaved with dignity and reticence. The acquisition of Canada is often the subject of conversation by responsible Americans. The forests and the wheat lands of the northwest, on the other side of an imaginary boundary, are essential to the welfare of the states. Will Mr. Roosevelt's presidency be marked by the conversion of Canada into American territory?

If such an event be inevitable, no man in our time is more likely to bring it about peacefully than Mr. Roosevelt. War between England and the United States is now unthinkable. Our foreign policy is necessarily identical. The Anglo-Saxons and Anglo-Celts must hang together or they will hang separately. The British empire is not only ill-

organized; it is not organized at all, and the play of natural forces is not hindered—otherwise than by monarchy—from a process of dissolution. There is no question of rebellion.

If Canada set up for herself tomorrow, no khaki coat would be ripped up by a single bullet. The absorption of Canada by the United States is a matter that concerns those two nations. If they agree, English opinion will not count. If they disagree, England will side with Canada, though the friendship of the United States is more essential to the united kingdom than the friendship of all the rest of the world outside the empire.

I do not presume to offer any opinion as to whether we shall lose Canada, but the stars in their courses are not working in the direction that Mr. Chamberlain and all loyal Englishmen would feign desire.

One Woman Among the Thousands.
We received a letter from Waycross, Ga. from a woman who had been troubled with female complaint for a long time, until she was reduced to almost a shadow. It effected her mind, she could not remember anything, would get confused and so nervous and irritable she could hardly sleep. She described her case as one similar to thousands of other women, and then ends the letter by saying she had gained 18 pounds last month and never felt better in her life, having no trace of her former troubles, slept well, ate her meals with a relish. She commenced the use of Dr. Gunn's Blood and Nerve Tonic just six weeks before she wrote the letter from which we copy the above. This tonic is in tablet form, and should be taken right after meals. It turns the food you eat into strong, rich blood, feeding the nerves and curing disease by making healthy flesh. Sold by all druggists for 75c per box, or 3 boxes for \$2. Pale, thin people should use this Tonic. For sale by Dr. C. S. Stone, Druggist.

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