

## UNION AND SEPARATION

Canada is forever British. But while we are and must be British we shall have difficult problems when the war is over. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta there are naturalized citizens of German or Austrian blood who regard their new citizenship too lightly, and who have been conducting for some years a propaganda based on Pan-Germanism. Now in war time a firm hand is laid upon them and the vigilance of the Mounted Police does not easily relax. When peace comes, what then? These men, with voting rights, have been consolidated in opposition to the spirit of British nationalism. It will be possible for any politician of the baser sort to exploit these people, to establish a Party or a Group frankly anti-British and to offer temptations extraordinary to the official Opposition.

The French-Canadian people, like the residents of Ontario, have no desire for Independence. They would be opposed to annexation to the United States. They are willing to be British—after the present plan. They do not understand that our participation in the larger perils of Empire has laid upon us new privileges and responsibilities. Imperialism, unfortunately, is a word of evil omen in the neighboring Province. It has been used by political agitators with endless iteration. Imperialism was the dreaded thing which was to drag us into the wars of the Empire. We are in the wars—not dragged, but of our own desire. Yet Imperialism has not even been tried. If we are to be British it would not be advisable for French Canada to be entangled with any pro-German party of disloyalty and thus be placed in a false position.

For many years, particularly through objectionable history teaching, the people of the Province of Quebec have been misled concerning the desires and hopes of the English-speaking people of Canada. When they are told, for example, that the chief reason for the Ontario results at the election of 1911 was the public discontent over the No Yemere decree and the desire of the people to revenge themselves on a French-Canadian Premier, they are being fed on falsehood. The falsehood is all the worse coming as it does from

the Mother House of the Christian Brothers. Certainly if the Church is to justify its control of education it must not lend itself to the propagation of hatred and revenge against the English. Do the Bishops of the Province of Quebec accept responsibility for such sentences as this: "After the Peace of Paris the English, having sworn to possess alone all North America, undertook to respect no treaties, no rights, and to reach their ends by no matter what means." History written in a bad temper can not be wisely used for teaching purposes. The Bishops are responsible for the education they control. What about this History of the Christian Brothers? How can we expect to have a united Canada if the French branch of the Church studies to separate us?