

## Canada and Its Races

In a recent debate in the Senate, referring to an attack made upon English newcomers, it was said that immigrants of other races had been adversely criticized. This is true. One attack does not justify the other. On the contrary, the lesson which we ought to take from a disagreeable and painful incident is the importance of good relations between men of all races and religions in Canada.

We cannot afford to have racial and religious quarrels in Canada. There is no such thing as racial solidarity here. Not only is every part of the British Islands represented, but we have, in a population of eight millions, about two million people of French descent. We have invited immigrants to come from every part of Europe, and they have accepted our invitation. We asked for farmers, and Europe sent us a large contribution from its peasant population of various races. We advertised Canada in the United States, and the American farmers came in large numbers. The criticisms passed on the newcomers are somewhat ungracious. When we needed settlers badly we did not inquire about their origin, but invited them to settle our lands and become citizens of Canada.

We ought to remember that for many years our fertile Western lands went begging. We built railways, we established political institutions, we made law and order prevail. Still the settlers would not come. When they did come at last, some of our people became critical. Some did not like the habits of the newcomers. Some shivered at the idea of an "American invasion," as the settlement of our lands by men of our own race and traditions and ways of thinking was called.

We must overcome these prejudices. We must recognize that Canada is a country, not of one race, but of many races, which must be blended and assimilated in order that a Canadian nation may be built up, just as the English nation was built up out of the Norman and Saxon and Celtic elements.