

BRITISH-CANADIAN IDEALS MUST BE CONSERVED HERE

Dr. Falconer Urges That the Dominion Must be Kept as the
Home of Those Ideals of Civilization for Which
Allies Are Fighting To-day

NO HYPHENATED CANADIANS WANTED:
WAR MAY ACT AS SIFTING MACHINE

Dominion is Consecrated to a New Imperial Allegiance—
New Realization of the Worth of the British Mind
and View of Life

An article by Dr. R. A. Falconer, President of the University of Toronto, appears in The University monthly under the caption: "A New Imperial Allegiance." Dr. Falconer says:

"An Imperial conviction binds Britons everywhere together. We now know what the soul of the British Empire is. That soul has been revealed at home in the splendid demonstration of the worth and virtues of the British character, and as we Britons overseas have instinctively rallied in defence of the principles which lie at the root of our Empire we have been clarifying them for ourselves. The Empire is solid as it has never been before, cemented by the blood of those from the Old Land, of Canadians in Flanders, of Australians in the Dardanelles, of South Africans near their own borders, of Indians in France—a cosmopolitan empire that appeals to the imagination of the world. It is a moral empire, united for the maintenance of international law, liberty, human well-being.

Not Called by Britain.

"For the future of Canada it is a fact of extraordinary importance that we have not been called by Britain to her defence. The war is not on England's soil. It is not primarily England's war. There is a Teutonic foe who has ranged with himself semi-civilized peoples in a war against civilization. The world has been endangered, and Britain with her allies is resisting an outlaw and endeavoring to chain him. Britain is our mother-leader against a common foe, and we, her children, have willingly gone with her to stand beside her in order to repel a barbarous attack on world-liberty, which by inheritance from Britain we treasure as our indispensable right. This war is therefore intelligible to our alien immigrant, and it will appeal to his imagination as a war in defence of Britain itself probably never could have done. The European or American newcomer makes his first acquaintance with this empire when it arises without schism, and by a consummate act of freedom ranges itself in all its parts alongside Britain to make a united front for the preservation of democracy. This makes possible even for those of foreign stock a new imperial allegiance. They have become citizens of a country which unites them with a noble brotherhood under a mother of free nations and sets them alongside allies in a world-conflict. Allegiance to this empire may well appeal to their imagination.

A Native Antipathy.

"The recent immigrant from foreign countries is able to understand this struggle not only because it is not of British origin, nor in defence of British soil, which is protected from invasion by a majestic though for the most part invisible fleet, but also because from the distance his inborn hatreds or prejudices against oldtime foes still have power, and in this land of freedom his native antipathy is not restrained by dynastic control. For example, there is no reason why the various subject races of the Austrian Empire should cherish any love for the central Germano-Austrian Government at Vienna, or the Hungarian of Buda Pesth. These peoples and many of the other races of Central Europe have no special interest in or knowledge of Germany, which looms above and behind Austria in every field of this war. Indeed it is possible that many may have brought their native dislike of the Prussian to this side of the water.

Interests of Humanity.

"But there is another large factor in our immigration, the intelligent people from Northern Europe of neutral stock, and the American from the central and western States. As they also regard this war, it is not Britain that stands out in it most prominently. What they first knew of it was the brutal invasion of Belgium and the attempt to destroy a neutral nation. This has been succeeded by a constant series of outrages—bombardments of undefended cities, killing of women and children, sinking of liners one after another in spite of promises to the United States, massacres of Armenians, and such a single act of folly as the shooting of Miss Cavell. The effort to lay low a foe guilty of doing these things will arouse their sympathy with our Allies. The foe himself by the way in which he has waged the war will have done his best to demonstrate to our neutral immigrants that the interests of humanity are at stake. When, therefore, our newcomer sees the hosts of Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India and the other possessions rallying with eagerness to various parts of the continent of Europe against such an enemy as has been revealed by the process of the months, his imagination must be stirred by the unity of purpose that animates these voluntary armies and by the sight of an Empire so unified and so intent upon a beneficent mission for humanity. May we not therefore hope that as the meaning of this war becomes plain it will engender in all of our recent citizens from Europe or from the United States a sense of pride in a commonwealth that can so worthily display its power?

"But for the old-stock Canadian the war has produced a rebirth of patriotic pride in Britain. In spite of all the self-criticism of the Englishman the behaviour of the Motherland has manifested splendidly the worth and virtues of the British character. The way in which the people have volunteered for war-service, the quiet manner in which they are enduring sacrifices, the self-

restraint under temptation to retaliate by brutal reprisals, the candour of their diplomacy, the regard for the rights of small peoples, the honorable aid given to their allies in a measure far exceeding anything that they had promised—all this has dissipated the suspicion that had been lurking in the minds of some who read only the surface of Britain's life, that a period of decadence had set in.

The Mind of Britain.

"The Canadian is now having interpreted to him afresh the inner meaning of the mind of Britain. From the home of liberty and democracy millions have arisen without compulsion in defence of the principles that have been believed in and maintained by Britons all through their history. They are still enduring as of old, still calmly competent, still brimful of reserve power, still fair and just in the use of their power, still passionately devoted to their own freedom and to giving freedom to others, still loyal to their Allies, and friends, still unshakably confident that the world is ruled by righteousness and that moral law is ultimate. By the long-drawn-out effort of this war the Canadian is being forced to consider these qualities of the British mind, but at the same time we older Canadians realize that this British mind is fundamentally our own also. Out of the depths of our being our ideals come into the light and we instinctively know that what we have inherited, but may have thought little about in the recent time of ease and material prosperity, are really British qualities. These came over with our forefathers when they crossed the seas, and on this side the British spirit is again manifesting itself in its essence. The British mind is also found in other overseas Dominions, though in each it has taken on a local tone. Possibly the superficial appearance of the life in some countries of our Empire is more nearly like in quality to that of England itself, though it is doubtful whether the fundamentals of the British character are to be found in greater purity anywhere than in the Dominion of Canada.

"Canadian Within the Empire."

"But if this war has brought to us a new realization of the worth of the British mind and view of life, we must not be content with what we have already experienced. We have only been set forth anew with keener appreciation of the common inheritance which all Britons at home and overseas share in. It is our duty now to see that we make the most of our awakening and make permanent the moral gains that already have resulted from our struggle. We are to be just as truly Canadian as before, indeed prouder of the name than ever, but Canadian within the Empire.

"If what I have said as to the British quality of the Canadian mind in those of British stock is correct, our people should when the war is over begin to re-read the history and literature of England and to see to it that our children are taught thereby what it is to be a Briton. The soul of Britain can be found in her great writers, her poets, her historians, her orators. The records of the thought, the political experience, the aspiration and religion of our kith and kin should be so set before our people that they will become saturated with their spirit. Is it possible to hope that in these and coming days of earnestness our people may be induced to turn again to the fountains of our spiritual life as they spring forth in our literature—in Shakespeare, in Milton, in Wordsworth, in Chatham, in Burke, in Bright, and in our historians? At least we may endeavor to make our schools centres for the propagation of the British ideal. So important is this matter of the education of our youth in the ideals of our race and Empire, that our finest students of English literature and our best historians would do well to undertake the task of presenting our young Canadians with the choicest portions of our literature

and history in such a way as to make them a living body of British tradition and spirit. This should be no mere selection for examination purposes, but a guide to the springs of valour, liberty and high endeavour, where the generous youth may get draughts of life. Nor is this too unpractical a hope, for just this kind of thing has been done by the teachers of Germany, and they have induced a whole Empire to adopt as their ideals such standards as Treitschke and other historians have set before them. To the German the motives of his literature and history have become intensely powerful, and because they have been perverted we need not scorn to employ means which we know our enemy has found effective.

Problem of Immigration.

"When the war is over the problem of immigration will again present itself. What limitations shall be set to immigration? If my contention is correct that already we have been consecrated to a new imperial allegiance, we shall not desire such an inflow of peoples as will make it difficult for us to maintain this allegiance. We do not intend to pursue a selfish policy and to keep needy and distressed people from finding a home in our land of freedom, but we who are already in possession believe firmly that our British-Canadian type of civilization is the best for us and shall not be allowed to perish. It must be given a chance. We have not yet had time to develop a hardy and deeply rooted character uniform in the older and newer Provinces. The plant is still tender, and if a flood of alien immigration sweeps over it too soon it may be wrenched up from its soil and carried away.

"Probably the war will act as a sifting-machine, so that for the next decade we may get few from the enemy-countries, who even apart from the enmity engendered by the war would be the least desirable class and would least readily blend with our life. If this should fortunately prove to be the case, we ought not to throw away these secular advantages by allowing an indiscriminate propaganda on the part of agents touting up and down the highways of central Europe for immigrants of any and every sort. We do not want a multitude of people merely to fill up our vacant places in order that railways and financial institutions may get large returns. We shall surely not allow a country that is being repurchased for us at the cost of enormous sacrifice to be insensibly siphoned away from us in order to satisfy the greed of speculators. When our sons will have come back to us having, we believe, preserved for us freedom to live in our own land according to our own ideas, we shall hope that in their wake will follow those who have stood side by side with them and us, and also those who can sympathize with us, who will endeavor to adopt our standards and will therefore in the next generation be assimilated to us. We want no hyphenated Canadians.

British-Canadian Ideals.

"The immigrant should come under no misunderstanding. On his arrival he should see, so to speak, our political creed placarded on the shores at Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Vancouver, as well as at the portals where the railways pass from the United States into Canada. We shall be arrogant towards none, we shall be brothers to those whom we receive, we shall give them the same liberty that we enjoy, it being always understood that our ideals are British-Canadian. Hereafter that purpose will be stronger than ever, for we have gone to war to preserve our standards.

"In the near future probably many will come from the allied or neutral countries of Europe. This new land should be to them the hearth and home of freedom. Canada will be for them and even more for their children a land to arouse in them a devoted patriotism. It is a land of bright skies, spacious plains, fertile farms, stately rivers, wooded highlands—a land expansive, beautiful health-giving, whose strong sons and daughters will take delight in its abundant prosperity. To the Scandinavian, the Russian, the Italian, the Serb, even the Belgian and the emigrant from Old France, the call of the West should appeal, as it did to Abram in the days of the earliest westward wandering of the Hebrew. "Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred and from thy father's house into the land which I will show thee; and I will make of thee a great nation." When they come they must no longer cast their eyes back, but must look to and love Canada. And this will be no hard task if we keep this land as the home of those ideals of civilization for which they and we are

fighting to-day. - Canada will stir them to a new patriotism, but as they learn the soul of Canada they will learn therewith a wider allegiance to the Empire in which Canada will do her part to maintain this renewed civilization; and through the Empire there will, we hope, awaken in these former aliens an affection also for those islands of the sea which never were their country, but which they will love as the incomparable home of liberty, democracy, and a broad humanity."