

## Who is a Canadian ?

There is a controversy as to who is a Canadian. One correspondent says that a Canadian is a person born in Canada, whose parents were also born in Canada. But another correspondent says that this will not do for him. He is a Canadian whose parents were born in the United Kingdom, and he declares that he has never thought of himself as anything but a Canadian. Many of our old-time public men were born in the British Islands, but they were ranked as Canadians, just as are the public men of the present day, most of whom were born in Canada.

The cause of the raising of the question is the very large **immigration** of the last decade. There are large bodies of newcomers whose thoughts and affections are naturally fixed upon their old home, and the assimilation between them and native Canadians is not complete. There is a feeling that the natives and the newcomers have interests and sentiments that are not identical. But all this will pass away. It is part of the "growing pains" of a young country.

There is a disposition to forget the really big features of the situation, perhaps for the very reason that they are obvious. Canada is nearly as large as Europe, and has a population only as large as that of Belgium. Canada will, of

course, have a population larger than that of any European nation except Russia. Our national problems are therefore of tremendous importance, not only for ourselves, but the hundreds of millions who will, from generation to generation, occupy the lands of Canada, make homes here, and take their part in the world's work and in the progress of civilization.

At present we are doing something to preserve the civilization of the world against Prussian barbarism. If, in this conflict, humanity succeeds in maintaining itself against the ape and the tiger, a vast work will still remain to be done in Canada, as in other regions which will be saved for civilization. In this work, just as in the war which interrupts the work, it will be idle to inquire where a man was born. The main thing will be the quality of his work. The present war is waged, so far as we are concerned, for one aim—that the Prussian obstruction to progress may be removed—that human nature may be developed up to the highest possible point, and may achieve all of which it is capable. There will be rivalry between nations, but it will be friendly and generous. In this rivalry we all hope that Canada will play an honorable part, and so long as its citizens have this aim in view, it does not matter where they were born, or how long they have dwelled with us.