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## Canadian Relation to the Empire as seen from the Southern Standpoint.

BY MR. THOMAS W. RACE, CANADIAN COMMISSIONER TO NEW ZEALAND.

ADDRESSING the Canadian Club on "Canadian Relation to the Empire as seen from the Southern Pacific," Mr. Thos. W. Race, Canadian Commissioner to the International Exhibition, New Zealand, in 1906-07, said:

*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Canadian Club,*—A few years ago, when asked to make a brief public deliverance, Charles A. Dana stated that when he was asked to speak upon a subject worth talking about for ten minutes it required one hour of preparation, but if he were asked to talk for one hour he could get ready in ten minutes. It is difficult to condense when one has a big subject to deal with, and I trust that you will to-day read considerable between the brief lines which I am to endeavor to speak to you.

But first let me assure you in all sincerity that of the honors which have come to me during the past four or five years I have appreciated none more than the invitation to speak to this Club to-day. Long live the Canadian Clubs! It is a privilege to be identified even for the moment with any movement fostering Canadian sentiment and developing Canadian national spirit. As more years come to me with the widening experience in the world and of the world the more profoundly impressed I become with the almost limitless possibilities which lie before us in this land and the important part of it is destined to perform in the civilization of the future.

The eyes of the whole world have turned toward Canada for the last few years. Her recognition has extended far beyond the Anglo-Saxon world. But particularly does Canada loom large in the eyes of the Empire of the southern seas, among the Pacific Ocean islands, some of which British diplomacy has foolishly given away, over in Ceylon and North Africa. Canada gave them all the first principles of a constitutional form of Government, and all these lands are looking to Canada for the next best move forward and the next best move in Empire consolidation.

Among the Pacific Islands I was surprised to find the wonderful and absorbing interest taken in Canada. Sometimes I have been inclined to think that the average new Zealander is better informed about Canada than is the average Canadian himself. New Zealand is ready to copy us; she is copying us. She has taken the name Dominion from us, and Australia has given us even a higher compliment in her jealousy and envy.

Not so long ago, while I was in New Zealand, a gentleman was announced to deliver a lecture upon Canada and the Rockies. He was an Englishman from a division of Birmingham and had recently returned from—in fact, I think he was then engaged in making—a trip round the world. I was asked to take the chair to my sorrow, and doubtless to his ere the evening was over. The hall was crowded to the doors. The people were all anxious to hear all about Canada. When I rose to introduce the speaker I said that naturally I knew something about Canada, and for that reason I always liked to be on hand when Canada was to be talked about, for, however much one might know Canada, there was always on occasions such as these something more to be learned that was worth learning. It is a tremendous subject, a grand subject, I told them, and nothing this gentleman can tell and describe can make me any prouder of the great land or love it any the less. Canada was worth hearing about, no matter whether the speaker were going to tell them of the majesty of her rivers, her matchless inland seas, her vast productive prairies, her majestic mountains, her forest fastnesses, her growing cities or her patriotic and loyal manhood.

And after all this he never referred to one of them.

The lecturer simply burlesqued a trip over the continent in a railway sleeping car. He spent his time describing a colored porter and told the porter's stories, some of which had not been told for fifty years, and in a dialect the colored porter never uses. The rest of his time he devoted to—what do you think?—mosquitoes! "The mosquitoes you meet in the Suez Canal, in Ceylon, in Tasmania," he told them, "are mere apprentices to these great mosquitoes that pounce upon you in Canada." And with that he sat down. Then I rose. I told the people that while it was not just what I had been expecting to hear, I was no less proud than I had been of Canada, notwithstanding the mosquito stories. "In fact," I told them, "I'm proud of those mosquitoes. What surprises me is that any gentleman could have been struck with the size and energetic character of those mosquitoes. They couldn't

be anything else but the biggest mosquitoes when you consider the high quality of blood they feed upon."

Then I told them some things of which we were even prouder than of our mosquitoes. I told them of our Canadian homes, the foundations of which are only equalled by those of Scotland; I told them of our boys and girls, of our schools, our churches and our institutions of grace and culture. I told them of the position Canada was destined to hold in the Empire, of its mission to educate, emancipate and benefit humanity, to spread enlightenment throughout the Anglo-Saxon world, to advance the Kingdom of God upon earth.

And the thinking man, who is taking note of world movements, realizes that the Anglo-Saxon civilization of to-day is to be the civilization of the future, and it is the civilization of the North American continent rather than the civilization of the British Isles. There is a conflict between the flashlight methods of the United States and the conservatism of England. Canada is destined to take a stand between them and be a buffer or go-between. Canada will be both the mediator and the dictator. Her very position is such that the nature of things has given to Canada the central place in the future of the British Empire. To the New Zealander some years ago it looked to be the certain destiny of Canada to be dominated and absorbed by the United States; now she is looked upon, by the same people, as the bulwark of defence for the Old Land against the aggressive civilization of the United States. Canada to-day, more than she ever did before, holds on with a firm grip to the Mother Land.

It was my privilege to be in the South Sea island at the time when the conference of the Colonial Premiers was being held in London. The doings and utterances of Prime Minister Deakin were followed, of course, with interest, but, would you believe me if I told you that the better class of people took very little stock in them? They said that Mr. Deakin's views only represented the labor organizations. Everybody there was waiting for Canada, to see what she would say and what move she would make. Then the word was flashed over the wires that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was not in favor of an Imperial Council. The newspapers rushed to me for an interpretation of the despatch, and my views upon it. I told them there was always danger that the news might not be authentic as to the Canadian Premier's declaration, but ventured to say that, if the telegraphic despatch were true, then Sir Wilfrid would do

well to learn the sentiment of the South Sea Islands, and I was sure he would change his opinion.

We have suffered from foolish British diplomacy in Canada, but they have suffered even more in the Southern States. There they have seen beautiful island possessions given away, when every one of these islands is so necessary to commerce. Britain cannot afford to lose another foot of her territory.

British diplomacy is just, cultured, and astute, but it has never been well-informed in relation to Canada and the South Sea Islands. England must realize that her position as the world's greatest power can only be maintained through her possessions. Every Englishman points to England's wealth. True, England has a long purse, but even the longest purse needs replenishing sometimes, and England's purse is replenished on the high seas in her trade and commerce with the nations of the world. It is because of her great circle of colonies that she holds her position as the world's first power. Without them she would be dominated by the United States with its expanse of rich territory, and other jealous nations would pounce upon her. If she were stripped of her colonies, of which Canada is the first hand-maiden, her sun would begin to set. In the South Seas they look to Canada as the protection and bulwark of a united Empire.

This is not only because of the geographical position of Canada, but it is largely because of her high standard of manhood. You gauge a nation more by its men than its products. Brazil would be a wonder if judged by the variety of its products. Brazil contributes largely to commerce, but it contributes nothing to the intellectual forces of the world. I have travelled a good deal, but I say honestly I have seen no national manhood of which I am so proud as that of Canada. I am an Englishman, but I think Canada inclines to the Scottish type—and there is no finer in the world.

Twenty-six years ago Charles A. Dana, of the *New York Sun*, made the statement that the greatest living leader of men was Sir John A. Macdonald. Two years ago Andrew Carnegie said the present Canadian Premier was one of the world's five greatest men. Take those two examples of constructive statesmanship and brightest intellect, Sir Charles Tupper and Hon. Edward Blake. Where in the world do you find men greater than these? Take Tupper, Blake, Laurier, Lord Strathcona, and Dr. William Osler—five men representing only 6,000,000 people, and all of world-wide distinction. Can those five men

be equalled by any five out of the 86,000,000 people to the south of us?

Let me close with this thought: that, with such a manhood as Canada possesses, if she is true to heredity, true to her possibilities and true to the Empire, she will surely rise to the mark of her high calling and perform her great part in the nations vouchsafed to the Anglo-Saxon races.