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CANADIAN INDEPENDANCE

The dismissal of "Lord" Dundonald by the Liberal government, because of his meddling in matters which were outside of his jurisdiction, and which

"Like a cloud before the skies
Hid all his better qualities,

has caused a great consternation among the Imperial Federationists, who look upon this incident as another broken link in the chain which binds us to the mother land. Now this class of our population look upon Independence as the greatest calamity which could befall our country; and look upon King and Queen as something more than ordinary flesh and blood, worshipping at the shrine of Monarchy, with all the devoutness of a Mohammedan. It is amusing to note some of the arguments advanced in opposition to Canadian Independence; their chief plea being British protection (the value of which is well proven by the Alaskan boundary award), while another argument employed by them is the prospect of being annexed by the United States.

Now this cry of British protection sounds all right, but it never seemed to be of much practical benefit to Canada, as in almost every instance when a question arose between Canada and the United States, and was left to British statesmen to decide, the verdict has always been decidedly in favor of Uncle Sam. Taking the South African war for example, it would seem that England stood badly in need of Canadian protection.

As to being annexed by the United States, that remains to be seen, but the danger of such an occurrence is not really so great as they would have us believe, as the Monroe doctrine is practically against annexation and colonization; and it is much more reasonable to suppose that in a struggle for independence the United States would be more apt to stand by Canada against a European opponent than to aid in placing part of this grand continent under European suzerainty.

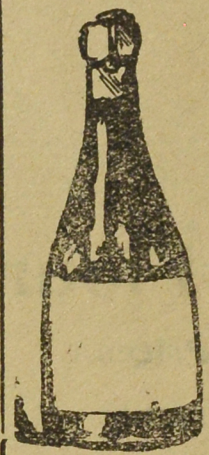
What makes the matter assume a ridiculous aspect is the fact that these very men who oppose Canadian independence will openly avow their admiration for "William Tell," the hero of that well-known historical poem, while the one thing which made him worthy of admiration is explained in the following lines:

"Stern Gessler marked the peasant's mien,

And watched to see him fall—
But never palm tree straighter stood,
Than Tell, before them all."

Now, if William Tell became an object of admiration through his stand for independence, why is not the same principle as admirable to-day, as it was then? It is this inconsistency and hypocrisy which is contemptible; if a man believes in the independence of his native country let him be man enough to stand by his principle, and if those who wish to keep this country in the position of a young man who has reached his majority, but is forced to vote which ever way his parents wish him to, and not allowed to use the privilege to which he is justly entitled, desire to justify their position, they will have to produce better arguments than British protection or the danger of annexation.

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