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Our Future.

A short time ago there appeared in the columns of "The Foram of Public Opinion," in Colliers Weekly, an article captioned "The Republic of Canada." Of the writer, Frank B. Tracy, a short introductory remark is made as follows: "A journalist by profession, and a student of modern, social and political phenomena, Mr. Tracy has paid special attention to the Canadian question, which long residence near the border gave him excellent chance to study." The following product of this gentleman's pen must lead many of us to think that Mr. Tracy hardly took the best advantage of his opportunities. He thus proclaims the result of his investigations:

"Our neighbor on the north is having her usual share of the perplexities of this world. The opening of the Canadian Northwest by Americans has introduced the problem of the future political temper and economic impulse home to the people of Canada through the of the new settlers, and the Tories are confronted with the apparition of a disloyal and | together with the advocacy of Mr. Chamberseceding half of the dominion. The Alaska lain's preferential tariff scheme. It is a fact boundary award has caused profound dissatisfaction and a well nigh universal suspicion that Canada's rights have been made a votive offering on the altar of Anglo-American friendship. The Chamberlain preferential tariff scheme is a two-edged sword, and, while it seems framed to benefit the colonies, it places Canada in a position of such close relation to England as to constitute dependence, a condition which every stout Liberal in the present government, especially the Premier, has vowed again and again he would not endure. . . These embarrassments of Canada are peculiar. Indeed they are unique. While Canada has many rights and privileges of an independent nation and pays no tribute to England, she is hampered by the knowledge that she is ruled from London after all. This is a condition which can not long be endured by a really great people. And the Alaska award has brought before Canadians one especially humiliating fact: on the question of her right to her own territory, one of the most dearly prized rights of a nation, she has not the deciding voice! Thus she realizes how far removed is she from real independence. The discontent consequent upon these conditions is broad and deep, Ottawa officialdom to the contrary notwithstanding; but the real source of the hurt lies not so much in today's questions as in the country's peculiar geographical position and the international intricacies which that position involves. Canada is the only dependency in the world which lies alongside a great, civilized, alien power. America is right here; England is far away. The Republic is forever a loadstone for the best of Canada. It is this contiguity of our great democracy to the nearby colonies which has alienated them from their mother countries. It cost Spain Cuba and Mexico, and it is a source of sedition to every colony in this hemisphere. Of course, Canadians are not disloyal to Great Britain, but one can not read the debates in the Ottawa Parliament or hear the conversation of intelligent Canadians without realizing that colonialism with all its privileges has been a fetter. Those who combat the prediction of the ultimate absorption of Canada into the United States with the assertion that Canada is becoming a nation, that there is a growing national spirit, and that the new settlers consider that they have become Canadians, not British subjects, are only showing how strong is the spirit of resentment at London rule."

"Canada is a vast, a great country. Her people are full of energy, strength, intelligence, and honest zeal. Her institutions are admirable, worthy of our imitation in some instances, and in respect for law and order she probably surpasses us. But she cannot reach her highest development so long as she feels that she is not free, as free as the greater land to the south,"

Let us devote a few moments to Mr. Tracy and his wonderful discovery.

It is true that Canada is having her usual share of the perplexities of this world, but as yet the great majority of Canadians have done little worrying over the "fetters" of colonialism. The most recent symptoms of the galling effects of the so-called fetters might have been detected by an acute observer shortly after the outbreak of the late difficulty in South Africa. At that time Canadians, throughout the length and breadth of the dominion, were seeking freedom from the chafing bands in the form of enrollment for service along the firing line. Nor were the men who so freely and eagerly volunteered those of British extraction only. In the cold grey dawn at Paardeberg the French-Canadian bore himself every inch as valiantly as did bis Anglo-Saxon comrade. There was no stern command from Downing street; there was not even a request from that source. In fact the opposite was the case, and the government of Canada, in response to the might appeal of a loyal people, asked the mother country to accept the aid of her daughter in the shape of a strong and willing contingent of Khaki-clad soldiers thoroughly equipped and transported to the scene of

It may be true that a student of political phenomena, possessing an unusually great degree of perceptivity, can observe an entire change in the public sentiment of our country since all this transpired; but, though such may be the case, the great majority of the inhabitants of this country are certainly not aware of it; and, until they themselves feel the transformation, there is little cause to fear that they will be driven to deeds of despera-

The gentleman who writes so freely of "The Republic of Canada" claims to have found, from giving special attention to the Canadian question, that one half the Dominion is disloyal and seceding. This lamentated state of affairs would seem to spring from two distinct sources, from two separate forces, both recently set in motion and both operating along the same line of public thought and sentiment. A "broad and deep discontent" seems to prevail over a recently discovered lack of national independence, the consciousness of which has been but lately brought award of the Alaskan Boundary Commission, that no annual day of rejoicing has been set apart by the government of Canada in celebration of the Alaskan Boundary Award, it is true that we have not deemed it a matter of especial thankfulness that the decision of the commissioners was not favourable to us. That this is so is hardly to be wondered at, but, had that decision gone the other way, it is just possible that the spirit in which it would have been received by the losing party would not have been one to look to as a modei for all nations. Be that as it may, it would seem reasonable to suppose that the feeling that the award has occasioned in this country is not such as gives promise of ripening into 'an uncontrollable desire to join our political future with that of the nation that came out a winner in the controversy. Moreover it is hardly probable that we have become suddenly possessed of the wish to sever connections with the mother country, that we may call ourselves an independent nation for a season, only to become sooner or later involved in another discussion with our neighbours to the south, that possibly might not terminate in such a peacealbe manner. Of Mr. Chamberlain's tariff scheme it may be said that no one doubts that it will operate

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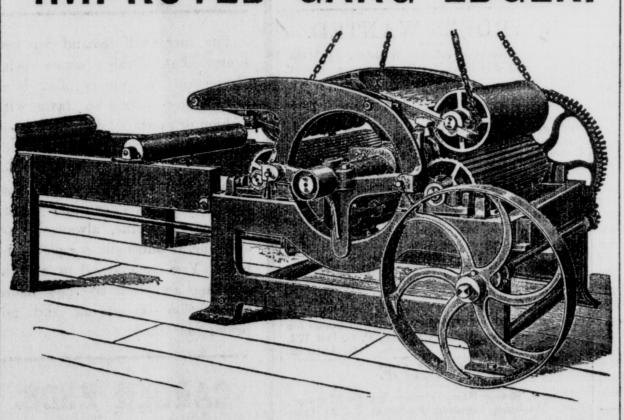
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to bring us in closer relation to England. That is mainfestly its object. If the people of England are ever won over to its adoption it will be simply because they desire that closer commercial and political relationship which it affords. It will certainly place Canada in a position of dependence. Yet mutual dependence with mutual benefits differs widely from a condition of subjection and servitude of either a commercial or political nature. Canadians face the future hopefully, looking to the forging of the links that will serve to knit more closely together the various parts of the Great British Empire. Far sighted statesmen in this Canada of ours see that along this pathway lies her hope. Nor does he who truly feels her pulse notice any widespread feeling in favor of any other course. From time to time fond dreamers, with whom the wish was father to the thought, have given expression to the opinion that a great many Canadians, if not the majority of them, favour the annexation of this country to the United States. One has but to travel through Canada, honestly looking for honest opinion, and he will learn that the idea of annexation is, generally speaking, not seriously considered by Canadians. Very lately some writers have expressed

the view that Canada is marching toward independence. If this be true we must look to the rising generation for the sign of this change in public thought; for, in spite of the probable great influx of population in the near future, native born Canadians will have the greatest share in shaping their country's future. The young men who today are the students at our universities will beyond question exert the greatest influence in moulding the destiny of Canada. For the past decade or more the problem of the country's pelitical future has been vigorously discussed in debate in our institutions of learning from Halifax to Vancouver. It is no mere opinion of the writer, it is the history of intercollegiate debate, of college journalism, that the great mass of Canadian students realise that the future of their country is bound up in that of the motherland across the seas. These young men have been going forth, and will go forth, with this conviction in their hearts, and with the purpose in their minds of furthering every movement that will tend to render more effectual the ties that bind together the various parts of the great British Empire. It is their proud boast that theirs is a great and growing country, that they are a happy and contented people; that their laws are just and well observed; that theirs is truly "a government of the people and for the people and by the people." They are confronted by no great industrial evils. On their horizon can be discerned no cloud of war between capital and labour. They envy not the people enjoying the benefits of other systems of government. They invite comparison. Such conditions produce no great desire for a change, no anxious longing to stray from the beaten track, either to shout liberty for the sake of shouting or to test the efficacy of the Munroe Doctrine.

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Prisoner-Yus, we was. We're both about the same age, so we must have bin boys