

The last published Government returns estimate the annual taxation of the people of Canada, for Dominion purposes, to be \$3.53 per head. At the present time it must be a trifle more. Our annual revenue is now about \$15,000,000. If we divide this amount among four millions of inhabitants, the contribution required from each person would be \$3.75. This rate must be considered under rate. In Great Britain the revenue collected averages a little over \$4, in France a trifle over \$0, and in the United States—with which the comparison is more just—the average for each individual fell last year to within a fraction of \$9.50. This does not, however, include the State taxation of our neighbours, to which we have nothing analogous. In New York the State tax runs about \$1.60, which would make the yearly taxation of the people of that State \$11.10 as compared with \$3.75 in this country.

Among twenty-eight different nations whose statistics have been examined, only Brazil, Norway, Sweden, Turkey and Switzerland, contribute less revenue per head than the people of the Dominion, and, when ability to pay is considered, our burdens may be said to be lighter than theirs. Under these circumstances this country can justly claim—and, it is to be hoped, it will long continue—to be one of the most lightly taxed communities in the world.

Of the institutions of the Dominion—political, scholastic and religious, there is no necessity to say much. Though doubtless capable of improvement, few countries possess better, or enjoy a larger measure of civil and religious liberty. Our system of Government, founded mainly on the principles of the British constitution, combines the freedom of a republic with the stability of a monarchy, and affords, at once, the utmost security to life and property, and the fullest liberty to the subject. Our municipal and educational systems are working admirably. Of the latter, although not the same in all the Provinces, there are good reasons to feel proud, for, at our common and grammar schools, and provincial colleges, the child of the poorest citizen may receive, almost “without money and without price,” an education second only to that of an English University. The University of Toronto, presided over by such eminent scholars as Dr. McCaul and Dr. Wilson—gentlemen whose reputation is not confined to this continent—can justly claim to rank among the great seats of learning. Though happily free from the incubus of a State Church, no country can boast of more active religious bodies, the fruits of whose labours are to be seen in thousands of churches dotting the surface of the country, and the zealous observance of religious duties by all classes of the people.

'Tis thus the Dominion of Canada appears in its fourth year. What of the future?

That depends on the wisdom and patriotism of its people. There are in British America the stones—the materials—lying ready to build up an imposing national edifice. It is second only to Russia in point of size. Its natural resources in lands, in forests, in mines, and in fisheries, are practically inexhaustible. Its past progress in wealth and population has been satisfactory. It possesses first-class canals, railways, and water communication; the volume of its annual commerce has swelled to \$130,000,000; its merchant marine occupies the fourth place among the navies of the world, and its institutions are in keeping with the intelligence of the age. When we add that it is one of the most lightly taxed and cheapest countries in the world to live in, no further evidence is required to prove that we have, in the Dominion, not simply an invaluable heritage, but one which possesses all the natural resources necessary to enable us to build up a new and powerful nationality on the northern part of this continent.

The destiny of nations, however, is not achieved without dangers and trials. From antiquity downwards this has been universal experience, and Canada is not likely to prove an exception. It is vast in extent, not fortunate in configuration, and partially a wilderness. It has disadvantages, and will have difficulties. But, when all told, these are not greater—if, indeed, so great—as the difficulties over which the American colonists triumphed nearly a century ago, and, remembering the energy, industry, and perseverance of our people, with their marked capacity for self-government, we cannot doubt that British America has a future destiny all its own. That destiny has been committed to our keeping, and the present attitude of Great Britain warns us that our own hands must make or mar it. Let us, then, rise equal to the occasion. Let us be faithful to the sacred trust, which, whether for woe or for weal, has devolved upon us. And let us beware, above all things, against the ruinous folly of a premature Independence, and doubly guard against those few restless, unpatriotic spirits, who, in secret and with bated breath—as if ashamed of their own thoughts—would tempt us, like Esau of old, to sell our birthright for a mess of pottage.

Of Great Britain it has become fashionable to speak ill in certain quarters. But no nation of ancient or modern times has so glorious a record as the English monarchy, and, whatever others do, the people of Canada will never forget that the world owes to it civil liberty, religious toleration, modern representative government, many of its noblest scientific achieve-