

## THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF CONFEDERATION

The sixtieth anniversary of the birth of a nation is never associated with antiquity or decay. Rather, at this period a nation may be called an infant, for the existence of a country is measured, not in years, but in centuries. Although Canada's years are few, she already ranks high in the world, holding as she does such a high position in that great Commonwealth of Nations, the British Empire. This augurs well for her future greatness, which will increase according to her growth in population, the development of her industries and vast natural resources, and the creation of a still more ideal spirit of patriotism among her people.

The importance of Confederation to Canada as a whole cannot be disputed. A federated form of government, in the Dominion parliament, gathering the provinces into a strong unity, strengthens and stabilizes the country; while the administration of purely provincial affairs is efficiently conducted by provincial governments. Through this system the people of Canada enjoy the benefits springing from wise and prudent legislation, and revel in the freedom of absolute self-government, except in matters which affect the rest of the Empire.

The laws and social conditions of Canada have been greatly bettered since 1867, though, no doubt, not all of the credit for this can be given to Confederation, as there would naturally be improvement in the normal course of events. The conditions of the Maritime provinces, although showing improvement, have remained more backward than those of the other provinces. This is especially applicable to Prince Edward Island. There is no task so interesting, and at the same time so futile, as that of speculating upon what might have happened if something else had not happened. Yet any history of Prince Edward Island would be incomplete, if it did not mention the exodus that set in immediately after the union, and the prosperity or retrogression of a country is usually expressed in terms of population. This loss of population, principally to the United States, may be termed Prince Edward Island's greatest drawback. However, there is evidence that the exodus is stayed, or at the least, is steadily growing smaller and smaller. It has taken experience to teach that the cities of the Eastern states provide neither sinecures, nor

in many cases, any positions at all. The high cost of living has made the situation untenable, since the high wages are apparent, rather than real. Indeed, it appears that the tide of population has turned. Many Canadian fathers and sons in the United States find themselves with but scanty savings, or lacking the comforts of a home, and they are beginning to remember the pleasant farms where they were born. They are coming back by twos and threes to a land where everyone can make a comfortable living, and there is no real poverty; where they are no longer victims of unemployment, but can profit by providing food to their fellow-men.

The other provinces of Canada,—Quebec, Ontario, the Prairie Provinces, and British Columbia,—have greatly increased in wealth and population since Confederation. The development of many industries and resources, the influence of two races working together for the common good, and the settlement of the newer provinces by a thrifty, vigorous, and self-reliant people,—these have been, are now, and will be, the means of increasing the wealth and prosperity of Canada.

The past history of Canada tells of the dangers and difficulties surmounted by the daring and honest endeavor of our forefathers, of the courage and devotion of our pioneers and missionaries, and of the conflict between her two principal races, now living and working together, and bound by the common harmonious bond of patriotism. As a result, the past of the Dominion is one of glory, the present one of pride, and the future one of hope, faith, and inspiration to her sons.

In conclusion, let us not forget our "Fathers of Confederation." The memory of the men in whose minds was conceived the thought of a vast union, who wrought the divided parts into one strong whole, who held it true to the Mother Country in the bonds of affection, will always remain green in the hearts of not only the people of Canada, but of those of the whole British Empire.

—J. Trainor '31.

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He is well paid that is well satisfied.—*Shakespeare.*

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A child—a rose with all its sweetest leaves yet folded.  
—*Byron.*