THE AMERICANIZATION OF CANADA

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649046607

The Americanization of Canada by Samuel E. Moffett

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SAMUEL E. MOFFETT

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SAMUEL E. MOFFETT

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN THE
FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

1907

PREFACE

THE object of this study is to examine the development of the relations between the people of Canada and those of the United States, and to see whether their tendency has been towards unity or divergence. In such an investigation authorities have a very different value from that they would possess in tracing a definite line of historical research. Many documents that would be indispensable primary sources in other fields are here of little service. The study must be largely a matter of sidelights—of unconscious revelation. Mere gossip becomes often more illuminating than a formal official statement, and a careless newspaper paragraph, an advertisement, or the notebook of a flying tourist may illustrate some point on which blue books are silent. Hence the seemingly desultory character of the citations in these pages.

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CHAPTER I

THE PEOPLE OF THE CONTINENT

THE bulk of the North American continent is divided into two almost equal parts.

One of these parts is inhabited by about eighty-five million people, substantially all speaking English, or in the way to do so. The other has about six million people, of whom two thirds speak English and one third French, the French element tending constantly to gain on the other through natural increase, and the English to maintain its lead through immigration.

These two halves of the continent are separated by a boundary line four thousand miles long, (not including that of Alaska), corresponding to no natural division either of topography or of nationality. In some parts this line is a parallel of latitude; in others it follows small and hardly identifiable rivers; in others it takes its unmarked way through the middle of inland seas. The question to be considered here is whether this boundary is an actual fence, separating one people from another, or whether there is a tendency on both sides to ignore it, and to merge the six millions and the eighty-five millions together.

When the American colonies declared their independence, there was no such division. Canada, then, meant what is now the Province of Quebec, and it was almost purely French. There were a few English settlers in the Maritime Provinces, which were not then considered parts of Canada, but the whole region west of the St. Lawrence Rapids was

substantially uninhabited. From this point to the Pacific Ocean the continent was absolutely one. A hunter might have started at the mouth of the Ohio and worked his way to the Arctic Ocean without ever noticing anything but the weather to remind him that he had passed from one country to another. The difference between Canada and the United States then, was the difference between French and English. When the revolting colonists invited the Canadians to join them the Canadians refused, as Frenchmen, unwilling to associate themselves with their hereditary English enemies. They preferred to remain under the English King three thousand miles away rather than to join their English neighbors with whom they had been colliding in reciprocal scalping expeditions for a hundred years.

Had matters remained in this condition, the British connection with Canada could hardly have outlasted the War of 1812. But the end of the Revolution brought the first of a long series of American mistakes through which that connection has been maintained to the present time. The oppression of the Tories in the States created two new provinces, inhabited by an energetic English population, and gave the infant commonwealths an anti-American bias that has not been entirely overcome to this day. It was this new hostile United Empire Loyalist population created by American blunders that gave the British generals the backing without which they could have had no success in the War of 1812. The number of these exiles that entered the provinces that now formed part of the Canadian dominion is estimated at forty thousand.1 The settlement of New Brunswick was almost entirely United Empire Loyalist. The Loyalist refugees reinforced the small English population of Nova Scotia and definitely settled the long-fought issue whether

Introduction to Canada Census of 1871, vol. iv, pp. xxxviii-xlii,