

OUR JUBILEE ATTRACTS ATTENTION

Our Progress Not Envied, but Our Laws and Government Held Up as an Example to the American People.

WE HAVE REASON TO BE PROUD OF OUR HERITAGE

The New York "Times" discussed Canada's sixtieth anniversary in the leading editorial given below. The review gives us Canadian food for thought for that it recognizes national traits which we are apt to take for granted. Every Canadian should read and individually digest the last two paragraphs.

Canada's Festival Year

The Dominion of Canada is to celebrate this year the sixtieth anniversary of its birthday; not the formal date of the passage of the British North America Act by the British Parliament in February, 1867, but at a kinder season. Of American congratulations and good wishes our best of neighbors may always be assured. The record of multiform growth since the end of the days of discord under the old Act of Union is a noble one. In the April Quarterly Review Professor William P. M. Kennedy of the University of Toronto summarizes "Sixty Years of Canadian Progress." Immigration, population, economic development and potentialities, fiscal and tariff questions, the debt of the National Railways, the remarkable Canadian contribution in money and men to the war, educational progress, spiritual as well as material advance, friendliness to the United States, loyalty to the Crown and the Commonwealth of Nations: here is a wealth of matter, temperately presented and in no underlining or chauvinistic fashion.

These clinching figures of production and export trade invite study. We must content ourselves with this modest summary of Canadian prosperity, which must always be closely related with American prosperity.

"We are developing our national resources, unemployment during 1926

was at its lowest figure since 1910; our foreign trade has been expanding; our domestic business shows every sign of sound progress; and our national budget for February, 1927, provides for enormous decreases in taxation. In addition, of our pre-war Federal debt the vast amount was held abroad. Today over 80 per cent. is held by Canadians. As an index of sound economic foundations, it is worthy of distinct record that in twelve years Canadians have invested over \$2,000,000,000 in the bonds of their own Government. For us too, is the bright sign that our National Railways can earn operating expenses. I do not, of course, wish to leave the impression that we have no problems, no difficulties ahead, nothing to worry us. What is of value is that economically we are on a strong upward trend; and that we are building up a sound population in the best sense of that description."

This improving economic position of the United States does not envy. Two pieces of Canadian good fortune or wisdom it may well envy. One is the Canadian treatment of the liquor question, of which Professor Kennedy doesn't speak. After trial of prohibition all, but two minor provinces have adopted a system of government sale and control. Each province is free to deal with the question according to the wish of the majority. No inexorable Federal or statutory law imposes a restrictive "general" upon unwilling political subdivisions. The acknowledged immense superiority over the United States in the administration of criminal justice is rather a cause of American shame than of envy. Criminal offenses, major and minor, have decreased in a marked degree since 1914. Homelands and crimes of violence may outweigh in frequency in some parts, to the character of the population; but the Canadian courts are perhaps the strongest influence.

Our judges, our lawyers, our informers, know the Canadian criminal code tries to protect society against the criminal, not the criminal against society. Canadian criminal courts sit to administer justice swiftly, not theories and moving picture entertainments as a resort of showmen and a vehicle of publicity.

Images were more beautiful than those they obliterated there would be no necessity for protest. But these inventions are more often than not of the most vulgar. Let us see how the "Prodigal Son" is treated. A New York paper describes the production as follows:

"The Prodigal mounts his trusty ass and rides hence from the house of his father to the land of wild women and B.C. gold-diggers. He wished to walk with Kings and shahs, he com- mouch. Instead, he goes for a joy ride and comes back without a patch on his girdle. Great Nansen rumps him out of all his wealth and then casts him aside as a blushing butter-and-egg man from the sea."

"Our own film censor in a witty paper spoke of the dangers of the Los Angeles封 of the world, that we might learn its popular speech:

"Say, be, that Jane is the niftiest bit of benna that ever ledged against a histic!"

"Or—
"Nix on the cops, I gotta hunch if we make our getaway from the house, their flyer can't search the glove."
Or—

"Shucks on the shake, the shack is jake!"

"There are strange words. It is a race between this language and the English and Judeing by common speech the language of Los Angeles is holding its own. It is the continuation school where real education keeps."

Literary Digest,
Good Wm Needs No Bush.

Branden Sun (Ind.): Our public men protest too much, the Canadian Minister at Washington being a daily offender about their "loyalty to the Empire and the Throne." Why on fishermen and one American having a four-year license to seek treasure in a foreign land, made with American money and assistance."

The Irish Statesman: "Publi- sents out a warning against the bright threatening to Irish culture by the American movie. The headmaster of a girls' school 'told them he should not like to be a shadowed in Hollywood at the Day of Judgment.'

He probably felt that a new instrument with an incomparable power of extension had been invented whose main cultural achievement was to bring the soul to the eyes, to the voracious surfaces, so that while it was operating there was no time to think, hardly time to feel, and that before the cinema, literature, poetry, drama, art, music, all that sounded the deep 'inner nature' was vanishing." Already in Ireland, it is confessed, "the cinema is an eye-through which our people look at the world".

People who read hardly at all will not miss the moving-pictures. In our schools the policy is to lay the foundations of an Irish culture, but what agency builds afterward, on these foundations? The cinema is the chief continuation school, and on the foundations laid in the National Schools it erects its own plantamagor utterly foreign to the policy. The what in Hollywood blows so strongly from Hollywood that it threatens to blow almost everything native out of the soil, and the images of humanity which replace what is native are invented in Los Angeles. In fact, America is imposing its own humanity upon the people in these islands and, indeed, upon a great part of Europe. If these

opinion, we are admittedly backward.

"Most of the remaining fifty have resulted, or will result, in loss to their promoters or purchasers."

"If Sir Philip thinks that films produced without the incentive to merit, but of competition are likely to be more successful than those produced with that incentive, all I can say is that he has no evidence to support his opinion."

"We now know, after two years of close study, exactly where we stand in regard to British films."

"We have five passably good studios. We have not more than six reliable producers."

"We have fewer than six reliable leading actresses, and fewer reliable leading men. We are badly deficient on the entire technical side."

"The present limit of our producing capacity is twenty films. The number called for in the first quota-year is about sixty."

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sire the production of sixty first-class British films during the next eighteen months or so, there is a job waiting for him as organizer of the world's cinema."

"From beginning to end of these quota negotiations not one word has been said about producing the kind of film that the British public wishes to see, but the ordinary man will be disposed to think that that should be the keystone of the whole discussion."

"The plain truth about the British film situation is that the bulk of our picture-makers are Americanized to an extent that makes them regard an British film as a foreign film, and an interesting but more frequently irritating interlude in their favorite entertainment."

"They go to see American stars. They have been brought up on American publicity. They talk America, dream America, and dream America. We have several million people mostly women, who to all intent and purpose, are temporary American citizens. 'Adverse criticism of any American film brings to me a flood of indignant letters from British-born subjects.'

"The cinema public can be converted from the disconcerting state of mind, but not by passable imitations of American films, made with American money and assistance."

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