

Evening Public Ledger

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY

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that in insular and short-sighted and
good-humored in the Middle West. In-
stead of constructive political doctrine,
he offers the country a series of senti-
mentalities, and the example of an an-
nouncing sort of piety. What will
come in Bryan's stead? The insistent
Nebraska has become, since Mr. Wil-
son's illness was announced, the frank
opportunity of his party and the most
conspicuous figure in a field of wreckage.

But even the Middle West seems to
have had enough of him at last.
Mr. Wilson has had enough of the
Middle West. And if the Republicans
are in twilight the Democrats may be
said to be in utter darkness.

On the Republican side there are
Hoover, Wood, Johnson, Lowden,
Harding, Coolidge. But even Woods
and Johnsons are not available in the
opposition camp. Bryan seemed for a
time to be getting the party under an
old spell. Now it is apparent that his
appearance in San Francisco will be
but preliminary to his long-awaited
exit from national politics.

WILL THERE BE FEDERATION
OF ANGLO-SAXON NATIONS?
It is a Dream of Some Visionaries,
but Open-Eyed Men, Contem-
plating Canada, Face
the Facts

EVERY prudent prophet who dis-
cusses the destiny of the English-
speaking nations will cut the future in
very thin slices. If he can foretell sen-
timent for a year he is better beyond the
majority of us. It may be a hundred
years, or more likely two hundred years,
before any one can reach a well-in-
formed opinion on the subject.

There are many distinguished Ameri-
cans, Champ Clark and William H.
Taft among them, who are dreaming
of the annexation of Canada to the United
States. Others are persuaded that this
consolidation of the English-speaking
nations on this side of the ocean will be
the prelude to the political union of the
United Kingdom and its other colonies
with the enlarged United States of
America.

Some of them have fixed upon Chi-
cago as the capital of the new world
power, regardless of the feelings of St.
Louis on the subject. They contem-
plate with unalloyed leisure the pres-
ence of English, Scotch and Irish
members of the new Congress, con-
sidering the Lake Michigan winds in
order to get themselves into training to
stand up under the winds of oratory
which will sweep through the legislative
halls of a world power in which is in-
cluded nearly one-third of the popu-
lation of the globe.

China will then be the only competi-
tor worthy of serious consideration.
France, Italy, Germany and Russia will
be reduced to the rank of the duchy of
Luxemburg in comparison with these
two great powers.

But among them who are only a dream,
those who are awake do not take it seri-
ously. And those who are aware of the
sentiment of Canada do not expect the
issue of annexation to the United
States to enter the realm of practical
politics during their lifetime.

The Canadian negotiations for estab-
lishing an embassy in Washington are
sufficient indication of the feeling across
the border. The Canadians properly
regard themselves as the citizens of a
great nation with a splendid future.

The Peace Conference recognized their
nationality when it placed them in rep-
resentation in the assembly of the
League of Nations, along with France
and Italy and Japan. Their troops
fought in the great war as the armies
of an independent nation, just as inde-
pendent as the United States.

They are not content with the national
feeling in all the British colonies, and
the mother country is fostering that
feeling. It has not only raised no ob-
jection to the Canadian plan to send a
minister to Washington, but it has ap-
proved it, aware that Australia, New
Zealand and South Africa may desire
to follow the precedent set by Canada.

What effect the growth of national
feeling in the colonies is to have on the
British empire no one can foretell. The
colonial policy of London used to be
based on the theory that it was the
 duty of the home government to train
the colonies in the arts of self-govern-
ment, so that when the time came for
them to assert their independence they
would be qualified to manage their own
affairs. It was a policy similar to that
which the United States is now follow-
ing in the Philippines.

But Joseph Chamberlain as colonial
secretary changed all that. He set out
to bind the colonies to the mother coun-
try in order to pave the way for a great
federation of states. He called a colo-
nial conference in London at which he
realized that the colonies would not
think the gathering important
enough to command his attention. But
Chamberlain kept at it, and the time
came when a new colonial conference
was presided over by the prime minister
and the delegates returned home im-
pressed by the grandeur of the empire
of which they were a part.

Now we are confronted by one of
those curious historical paradoxes pro-
duced by events, because the war in
which the colonies fought for the pres-
ervation of the empire has stirred the
national feeling in the colonies to a
point where it is impossible to return
to the old policy. It was imperial politics
which forced Lloyd George to insist that
the representatives of the self-governing
colonies should be admitted to the
assembly of the League of Nations on
equal terms with the representatives of
independent powers.

Whether this trend toward separation
or not, time alone can tell. Canada is
expected to build some warships to
strengthen the British navy. She has
an army. Now a nation with a seat in
the conference of independent powers,
with a navy and an army and with dip-
lomatic rights in Washington, is a
different entity from a colony such as
Chamberlain had in mind. Whether it
all tends has not been revealed by the
Delphi oracles or by the oracle boards
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But we can be certain that the rela-
tions between the United States and
Canada, which have been peaceful for
more than a hundred years, will con-
tinue friendly. We have had numerous
differences over boundary and other
subjects, but they have all been settled
amicably, for the reason that there was
no desire on either side for anything but
a fair adjustment. Over the long fron-
tier extending from the Atlantic to the
Pacific there is no hostile feud because
none is needed. We are not afraid of
incursion from Canada and Canada does
not fear the incursion of American
troops across the border. France had
a Verdun and a Belfort overlooking
Germany. And Germany had strategic

SHAKESPEARE'S BEQUEST

His Birthday Today Emphasizes
the Spiritual Inheritance in
Which the Entire English-
Speaking Race Shares

THERE are valid reasons why today
is not a holiday.
Spiritual inheritances, at least those
which are devoid of special religious
significance, are often taken for granted.
There are certain forces which of their
very density and majesty of their sway
become accepted complacencies and fail
to stir the usually eager human appet-
ite for wonder.

And so when April 23 rolls around
not only the vast majority of the
English-speaking world solemnize the
birthday of William Shakespeare or to
pay formal tribute to his memory.
It is a debatable matter whether this
attitude is really one of reverence or
respect for the inestimable. Secular
holidays originate in events, which,
however impressive in their appeal,
suffer from the same general in-
difference of the masses. The significance
of the signing of the Declaration can
be visualized as its fundamental effect,
the emancipation of a nation, is
graspable.

That William Shakespeare was born
in Stratford-on-Avon on April 23,
1564, it may be urged, another defi-
nite fact. We know also that he died
on the same date in 1616, at the age of
fifty-two. But if the British
ambassador consents the President will
have to find some compelling reason be-
fore he can shut the door in the face of
a friendly neighbor.

Tradition records that he was an
actor of character parts, scoring es-
pecially as Adam in "As You Like It,"
and as Hamlet. He was
described as "gentle" by one contem-
porary, and by another as "an upstart
crow." The only representations of
him regarded as in any degree authentic
is a new wax figure by the artist
Charles Seymour, which is the first
collected edition of his writings.
Despite the artistic efforts of the
engravers, we cannot "see" the corporeal
Shakespeare in the Elizabethan and
Jacobean settings. His triumph, his
vivid and inexhaustible conquest is
spiritual.

The debt to this immortal living pres-
ence is so profound, so much the result
of the infiltration of his thought, his
moral standards, his estimation of
his character, that the English-
speaking world, and those of our
ancestors through more than three and a half
centuries, that to celebrate Shakespeare
is to celebrate the spiritual inheritance
of the entire English-speaking
world.

Formal legal bonds, ostentatiously
devised obligations, seem fragile and
feeble beside this union of sentiments
which binds the English-
speaking world together. The thought-
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become accepted complacencies and fail
to stir the usually eager human appet-
ite for wonder.

And so when April 23 rolls around
not only the vast majority of the
English-speaking world solemnize the
birthday of William Shakespeare or to
pay formal tribute to his memory.
It is a debatable matter whether this
attitude is really one of reverence or
respect for the inestimable. Secular
holidays originate in events, which,
however impressive in their appeal,
suffer from the same general in-
difference of the masses. The significance
of the signing of the Declaration can
be visualized as its fundamental effect,
the emancipation of a nation, is
graspable.

That William Shakespeare was born
in Stratford-on-Avon on April 23,
1564, it may be urged, another defi-
nite fact. We know also that he died
on the same date in 1616, at the age of
fifty-two. But if the British
ambassador consents the President will
have to find some compelling reason be-
fore he can shut the door in the face of
a friendly neighbor.

Tradition records that he was an
actor of character parts, scoring es-
pecially as Adam in "As You Like It,"
and as Hamlet. He was
described as "gentle" by one contem-
porary, and by another as "an upstart
crow." The only representations of
him regarded as in any degree authentic
is a new wax figure by the artist
Charles Seymour, which is the first
collected edition of his writings.
Despite the artistic efforts of the
engravers, we cannot "see" the corporeal
Shakespeare in the Elizabethan and
Jacobean settings. His triumph, his
vivid and inexhaustible conquest is
spiritual.

The debt to this immortal living pres-
ence is so profound, so much the result
of the infiltration of his thought, his
moral standards, his estimation of
his character, that the English-
speaking world, and those of our
ancestors through more than three and a half
centuries, that to celebrate Shakespeare
is to celebrate the spiritual inheritance
of the entire English-speaking
world.

Formal legal bonds, ostentatiously
devised obligations, seem fragile and
feeble beside this union of sentiments
which binds the English-
speaking world together. The thought-
fulness of the English-
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