

rather than the ending of a
been decided to make the
premiers an annual event—
importance of which seems to
most of the publicists who
ral questions debated at

o deliberated so effectively
make what seemed like a
part of the Dominion Gov-
liberality. Admitting the
the subsidy principle, there
with the methods or the re-
Though it did not produce
satisfaction they demanded
have all had sufficient ex-
atisfied with a godly per-
hope for. They repeated
so apparently fruitless
essions asked for in 1887—
ver two and a quarter mil-
ary, which, as provincial
e to fill.

subsidies question is like a
i pitfalls and snags for the
e principles vitally affect-
on which was the sum of
You strike interests and
much take count of consti-
do of the protracted habit
e exchequer. And you lay
ation of countenancing in
judicious appropriation of

s objection to the Confer-
the ground that it was an
e eminent journal professes
of Sir Wilfrid Laurier an
mple on provincial rights;
the propositions of the
accorded them, have been
spirit worthy of the import-
all-Canadian, rather than
point of view.

subsidies is founded on the
eliminary to Confederation
titled to certain portions of
heretofore been levied by
th be collected by the cen-
these fiscal arrangements
on avoided the ridiculous
ed by the federationists of
ous language left the as-
te debts by the Common-
fter the consummation of
y loaded Australia with a
is more confounded seven
f the Commonwealth than
the Governor-General of

ent predicates the right of
m the Dominion treasury
t with the enormously en-
nion, as were the amounts
ago, which were then far
revenue of the whole Do-

It is said that if the
not receive more of the
land, the money will be
Ottawa Government upon
on public works that are
ility. But that is an argu-
ncrease of subsidies as for
e to the actual needs of
due regard to economy
elled to practise daily in
ominion Treasury is over-

loaded with cash the obvious thing to do is to make
less demands upon the tax-payer; and not to call upon
the most virtuous of provincial premiers to hurry up
and dip in his hand as far as it will go. But though
the revenue is leaping up, there is a day of reckoning
coming; when certain loans will mature, and other
loans will have to be raised to build a trans-continental
railway, which should cause holders of the national
purse-strings to be very careful in their spendings, let
the demands of "workers" from the east to the west be
never so insistent and never so closely connected with
the necessities of the next crop of votes.

It is not sacrilegious to think that if the fathers of
Confederation could enjoy a resurrection in the flesh
they would regard their work as being ideally suited
to twentieth century conditions. They would scarcely
recognize the country they served so well. Becom-
ing accustomed to the changed faces of things they
would naturally expect—the inheritors of their
sagacity to be distinguished by an ever-widening ap-
preciation of political tendencies and expedients. It
is conceivable that some of them might desire to see
the subsidising custom relegated to those recesses of
the household where the swaddling clothes of infancy
most fittingly repose. They might dissent radically
from the preamble of the premiers' declaration, placed
in the forefront of their repetition of the 1902 de-
mands, that the increase of subsidies is "in the interest
of the people of Canada" and "essential to the develop-
ment of the provinces."

It is really as important to the wise administration
of public affairs that there should be no expenditure
without direct responsibility for collecting the money,
as that there should be no taxation without representa-
tion. The evil of insufficient appreciation of the re-
sponsibilities of directorship, which always threatens
financial corporations, is just as likely to extend to
politicians and even statesmen, who cannot be held to
account by their constituents for the imposition of
taxes which they may so lightly spend. If the Do-
minion Minister of Finance were sufficiently of a
fairy godmother to be able to dispense golden favors
obtained from Nowheré, the tendency of the custom
of dispensing largesse to provincial governments,
would be against the public interest, in the long run.
But where the Dominion money-box is filled by the
same people who are in danger of believing that what
they obtain from it, is a gift from some superior
Benevolence, the position becomes almost a joke, and
is thoroughly unsuited to the habits of governmental
entities which have passed from adolescence into the
virility of manhood.

Here is the Province of Ontario, the banner pro-
vince of the Dominion, declaring that it is essential to
its development, that it should get more money from
Ottawa—the money which it first sends to Ottawa. It
is hardly essential to the development of manly On-
tario to pass around the hat in the fashion of a needy
suppliant, who does not realize that he is really reliev-
ing Peter to pay Paul. Of course, so long as the pre-
federation claim continues dominant in this enorm-
ously important question of public finance, the pro-
vinces will do their best, periodically to "raid the
treasury"—to use the phrase of the temperate and
far-seeing "News" of Toronto.

Appetite grows with what it feeds on. Where the
provinces are leagued together to secure more sub-
sidies from the Dominion, there will inevitably de-
velop a disposition to clamor for coin rather than to
steer an independent and self-respecting course, and
to preserve for genuine commercial development the
cash which can be so easily frittered away in Govern-
ment machinery and in those by-paths of politics
which are as unnecessary as they are unprofitable.
The premiers are to come together once a year. They
may become possessed of the spirit of those who, with-

out thought of the morrow, feast in their elder
brother's house. And the Premier of the Dominion
may find that the yearly confabulation of those who
are after money, at infinitesimal expense to them-
selves, will be an intolerable strain upon the amenities
of the federal and provincial powders.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The proposal to hold an exhibition in Van-
couver in 1910 to exploit the possibilities of trade be-
tween Canada and the Orient is as wise as it is
courageous. It is not prompted by anxiety lest the
advent of the Grand Trunk Pacific to the northern
part of British Columbia will prejudice the eminence
of Vancouver as the Canadian port for commerce with
Asia. It is the natural fruit of the expansion of a trade
that was negligible before the C.P.R. established regu-
lar communication with Japan and China. The first
steamer that left Vancouver for Yokohama took as
her cargo a couple of carloads of shingles, and the
bones of some Chinamen who loved their fatherland
even more in death than in life. Prince Rupert will
not harm Vancouver. But Vancouver wants to be as
far ahead as she has always been. The Canadian-
Asiatic Exhibition will help to serve that end. It will
bring Asia nearer to our own Pacific hinterland; even
though it may not beget a more affectionate regard for
the Asiatic as a fellow-worker in the multiplication of
Canadian products.

Nothing more illuminating about a part of British
Columbia has been published in Eastern Canada for a
long time than the description of the manufacturers of
New Westminster, sent by our own correspondent,
who has been judging at the Provincial Exhibition
just held there. The impression, faithfully given, is
of a city full of actual, constructive commerce; and
very big with promise of notable achievement in the
immediate future. The citizens have a live organiza-
tion to give the potentialities of the city the wide-
spread publicity they deserve—that kind of publicity
which is becoming regarded as essential to communi-
ties that would grow. Some cities will expand with-
out effort; sometimes in spite of the incompetence or
indifference of their governors. Some businesses will
do likewise. But no wise man will trust entirely to
the rather uncertain currents of trade. For, while he
is giving a sublime exhibition of complacency, some
competitor will get the good things he might have ob-
tained if he had been less satisfied with his own excel-
lence. Those of us who have had the advantage of
visiting New Westminster know how magnificently
situated it is for a wide range of industries; and are
not astonished that the visit of our correspondent
should have produced so much informative material.
Comparatively few of the dwellers in the East have
seen the Fraser River. The statement of the enormous
capacities of British Columbia is as familiar as a tale
that is twice told. But to realize the conditions which
inspire faith in the promise of a far-distant territory
the presentation of line upon line and precept upon
precept about them is barely sufficient. Still, that is
the only way, where examination on the spot is im-
possible.

Nipissing rose on the New York curb on Wednesday to
25½, the highest price yet, and closed at 24½.

Silver continues to advance, and during last week the
price in New York and London rose two points, and it is
now nearly 90c. per ounce. There are likely to be yet
further increases.

There is increased activity in the Rossland, B. C., share
market, and there has been some demand in Montreal for
low-price issues. Le Roi's have gone up several points and
reached £1 7s. 6d. The annual meeting is to be held next
month, and should a dividend be declared, which is thought
will be the case, a further rise may be expected. Le Roi
Two, according to latest cable advices are worth £2 16s. 0d.