

PRESIDENT then called on the HONORARY SECRETARY to read the following Paper, by Mr. SANDFORD FLEMING, G.M.G., who had suddenly been summoned to Canada on official business:—

CANADA; AND ITS VAST UNDEVELOPED INTERIOR.

Last session a distinguished gentleman, Dr. Donald Fraser, read an exceedingly interesting and instructive paper on Canada. It will probably be remembered that the learned gentleman alluded chiefly to what may now be termed old Canada, that is, the province or united province of Upper and Lower Canada as it existed some time ago, now the two provinces of Ontario and Quebec. It is not at all desirable that I should venture to take up any of your time with topics which have been so lucidly brought before you, and which have been already ably discussed. It is my purpose to begin where that gentleman left off, and endeavour to describe portions of the country which he did not prominently mention. I shall direct my observations to that part of the earth's surface extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the boundary of the United States to the Arctic Ocean, all of which is comprised within the limits of the Dominion. I shall refer chiefly to the undescribed territories of what may be called New Canada, and attempt to say something about that vast region, the greater part of which is as yet wholly unoccupied by human beings, but with respect to which my fellow colonists are said to be dreaming magnificent dreams.

First let me say a few words about the change which took place a few years ago when Canada dropped her provincial character and assumed semi-continental proportions. I shall not attempt to relate even in brief the political events which led to the confederation of the several British North American provinces. It is enough for the present to remark that local difficulties arose which in themselves seemed not easy of solution except in the adoption of measures similar to those now proposed for the Australian Colonies, which would widen the field and cause mere sectional interests to be of secondary importance. The importance of the objects to be attained seemed worth an effort, and, happily, decided steps were taken.

It has been the custom in the Old World on occasions when to some governing minds it seemed expedient to cultivate the love and affection of adjoining nations, to appeal to the forcible argument of gunpowder. If the object has been to civilise, or Christianise, or in any other way to benefit a people, in olden times it has not been uncommon to employ the sword. In Europe even to-day,