

EGYPTIAN PROSPERITY.

There is one conspicuous feature that especially distinguishes Britain's administration of the affairs of its dependencies from the policy adopted by most other countries; that is, they are primarily conducted with a view to advancing the interests of the inhabitants. This is the secret of our success as a colonizing and governing race. We have discovered what most other people, who attempt such tasks, have not yet learnt, namely, that to ensure the well being and prosperity of the peoples we rule is the best way of promoting our own. This is a lesson capable of world wide application in every sphere of life, and it would be universally perceived did men not allow their eyes to be closed by intense selfishness. In proof of the advantages of our policy and its successful application, a grander illustration could not be found than that of India, and history affords no parallel to it in the records of any other nation. About ten years ago, we took control of Egypt, and though the irritable jealousy of our neighbors has led them to throw every possible obstacle in the way of our success, the results accomplished are such as have greatly astonished disinterested observers, have secured the confidence of the people governed, and have carried the prosperity of the country to a point which has few parallels in its history. It may even be affirmed that we have laid the foundations of a period of prosperity greater than that which distinguished the country in the days of and under the administration of the Israelite Joseph. Brilliant as was his conduct of the country's affairs, it ended in the reduction of the entire people to servitude—a slavery which has practically lasted from that day to the time of our assumption of the government. But slavery in all forms is inconsistent with English principles and policy, and steps were immediately taken to abolish it as speedily as possible. This has been done, with the greatest advantage to their welfare, and there is every reason to believe the people properly appreciate their newly acquired freedom.

The further measures taken to develop the resources of the country are also proving highly fruitful in more senses than one. Advice during the week report that the immense increase in the cotton and other crops, which has resulted from the measure of the irrigation engineers, the establishment of a just system of water supply, under which the poorest grower is favored equally with his rich neighbors, the ready accessibility of the officials, and their promptitude in redressing grievances have inspired cordial good feeling and respect on the part of the natives for English work.

There is no reason why in the new circumstances that have arisen the African continent Egypt should not become a source of light, and leading.

LABOR CONCERNS.

As was promised in the Speech from the Throne the government have introduced in the Legislature an important Bill relating to industrial matters. It provides in the first place, for the establishment of a Bureau of Labor Statistics, the duties

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of the Commissioner of Labor being among other things to collect statistics and other information relating to industry and commerce, as well as to inquire into and report upon the social and sanitary conditions of the working classes, their homes and the places in which they are employed. He is also to see that all laws relating to labor are strictly carried out, children, minors and women being specially provided for. He and his deputy are, for the purposes of their office, empowered to enter all places which they may see fit and are aided by the enactment in every possible way in the attainment of their object. For the above purposes the province is to be divided into districts, in each of which will be a Council of Conciliation before whom all complaints shall be brought by the Deputy Commissioner of Statistics, whose business it shall be to adjust with the aid of the Council all disputes as far as possible.

This departure in this Province is following legislation that has worked with greater or less success in the United States and Australia, and in many instances and particulars has been found to be exceedingly useful as well to the artisan classes as to the mercantile community and the employers of labor. Of course in some cases it was only to be expected that interposition of this kind should be a failure, but on the whole real good has been accomplished in this way, and the Government deserve credit for the action they have taken. The measure as laid before the members shows not only considerable interest in but knowledge of the labor question in its various phases, the subject have been apparently well studied. It may be remarked here that at one time the labor element interested in the late Wellington strike would, according to report, have been fully prepared to submit the issues to arbitration, but as things were the gulf between them and their employers seemed to be impossible of being bridged that way, and so the controversy continued with all the pecuniary

loss and individual suffering that were entailed.

To all appearance, the measure is not only a good one but it is well timed, as we are on what many of us believe to be the threshold of a prolonged period of industrial development, all obstacles in the way of which it were well to have removed as far as possible in advance. But to secure this it will be for the Government, in appointing the officials provided for or who may be necessary, to see to it that they are in every way well qualified; that not only are they practical men—not politicians—but that they have the courage to do that which is right and just between man and man, without any considerations of fear, favor or affection. This much secured, the work to be done will be very much simplified and rendered more capable of successful accomplishment.—*Commercial Journal*.

DOMINION APPROPRIATIONS.

Appended are some of the appropriations in the Dominion estimates for the province of British Columbia. It is to be hoped that members will see to it that every effort is made to impress on the Government the absolute necessity of not a few other undertakings:

Vancouver—	
Post office, to complete.....	\$13,000
Victoria—	
Drill hall.....	5,000
Public buildings.....	5,000
Dredging inner harbor.....	10,000
Dredging outer harbor.....	12,000
Fraser River—	
Improvement of channel at mouth.....	30,000
Protection of banks at Garribush.....	12,000
Improvement of navigable channel and protection south bank at Miller's Landing and Sumas.....	7,500
Columbia River—	
Improvements above Golden.....	4,500
Improvements between Revelstoke and Arrow Lake.....	1,500
Skeena River.....	3,000
General repairs and improvements, harbor and river works.....	3,000