

one dominant feature of Canadian development. The wheat lands of the prairie have laid the foundation for the industrial activity which is rapidly converting the Dominion into a great manufacturing country. The forests, mines and fisheries of British Columbia, sources of potential wealth, of which the prairie provinces are devoid, have started this Province on a career of commercial prosperity, which, in the opinion of the most competent judges, will outstrip anything hitherto experienced in the Western world. But apart from the natural resources within its own borders the future of British Columbia is largely bound up with the civilisation of the Orient, and by so much as the population and ultimately the demands of these slowly awakening peoples will exceed those of Europe, so will the possibilities of the development of Canada's great Western port, transcend the opportunities of the East. It is difficult to appraise the extent, the influence and the full significance of a movement in which the observer is a unit. His own personal interests engross him and distract his attention from the far-reaching influence of passing events, but the keen observers of older countries, where conditions are settled and pioneer zeal extinguished, looking out from their vantage points of security and ease upon the New World pronounce Canada the coming country and British Columbia its greatest Province. If they are right Vancouver will become "The Seaport of Canada."

**The All-Red Line.** Prince Fushimi, cousin of H. I. H. The Mikado, and a possible successor of his illustrious master has completed a tour along the "All-Red Line," which marks the territory over which King Edward rules. As Westward Ho! goes to press the Monmouth has just lifted anchor and sailed for the Orient with the Prince and his staff on board. The visit is one of prime significance. It is the outward and visible sign of the amity which was established between England and Japan when Lord Salisbury concluded an alliance which by many of the quidnuncs was pronounced a mesalliance. It has taken but few years to justify his policy, and his con-

ception both of the Japanese character and of the importance of a Japanese alliance. Little did he, or the world think at that time that events would move so rapidly, and yet within the short period of six years we have seen Japan emerge from obscurity, demolish the fleet and put to flight the armies of one of the greatest world powers, and at a bound assume a position of equality in International Councils. The alliance was effected in order to preserve peace in the Pacific; today it stands for the preservation of the peace of the world. No greater honour could have been shown to any princely visitor than has been extended to Prince Fushimi, both in England and throughout the King's dominions; and the request preferred by the Imperial authorities that loyal subjects everywhere would unite in these greetings carries a special significance in view of circumstances which have recently occurred in the great Republic to the South. The historic question, "What shall be done with the man whom the king delighteth to honour," recurs vividly to the mind. The answer is to be found in the round of cheers which punctuated the Prince's progress over the All-Red Line, and which in the most emphatic manner sets the seal of equality upon England's ally.

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**A Sign of  
The Times.**

No measure of recent years has aroused more interest, and in certain quarters more hostility, than that which, fathered by the Postmaster-General aims at extending the British preference to literature. It is not a little singular that amongst its bitterest critics have been found Canadian publishers who, like Demetrius of old, have cried out for no other reason than because "their gains were gone." Mr. Lemieux took a broad and statesmanlike view of the situation and undoubtedly gave effect to the wishes of the people, when he raised the postage rates high enough to exclude all but the highest class American magazines and newspapers. Everyone knows what the American press is, and although it is improving, there is still much ground for complaint on the part of the people who like a clean sheet. The abortive productions of vulgarity, illiter-