

the Ohio River. This plan has proved successful, and a boat of this type can navigate the crooked passages in the upper reaches of the river with great facility, and is able to keep the fleet supplied with coal by making one round trip per month.

*Efficiency of British Administration.*—In this connection reference must be made to the type of men who are carrying on these great works, especially the irrigation works of Egypt. Men of the highest character and ability, selected solely for their fitness, they hold their office untrammelled by the political exigencies of the day.

Those who heard or read the speeches of Earl Grey, before he left Canada, could not fail to be impressed with the spirit of pride and patriotism with which he referred to the beneficent influence which the British Empire is able to exert throughout the world. Wherever that influence extends, lawlessness and oppression are put down and liberty and righteousness maintained, while the country is developed for the good of the people, and those great works of civilization which are mainly the product of engineering skill are carried on.

Great Britain sends her best blood and brains to the farthest corner of the Empire, and nowhere is the power of a few able men to control vast forces better illustrated than in the British Administration throughout the 4,000 miles of valley of the Nile. The forces to be dealt with are hordes of savage men, as well as forces of nature. But a few short years ago the region where the works are carried on was terrorized by the Mahdi. Now life and property are safe, and the lonely British officer who stands guard with his handful of native soldiers, preserves the peace of thousands of square miles of territory, while the engineer carries on his work of harnessing the Nile and making it possible for the natives to prosper.

These men are all actuated by that same spirit of patriotism to which Earl Grey referred, and the belief in the power of British institutions, and they appear to take a personal pride in being representatives of that power. Here in Canada we are differently situated. We are not a colonial dependency but a self-governing nation. Great Britain does not send us men of this stamp to rule us and execute our public works. We have within ourselves both the opportunity and the ability to develop our own resources to the fullest extent. Shall it be said that our great works are carried on less efficiently or by men with less worthy motives than in less-favoured parts of the Empire?

We have many men in our public service who are in every way worthy of the honour and esteem in which we hold them, but it is not always so, and in the rank and file especially we do not find that fitness is the sole test. Our younger men especially do not find in our public services that opportunity for a career, in which industry and merit, combined with high personal character untouched by political