

population grows our municipal system, established on a broad and firm basis, will expand naturally and easily. There are few respects in which our municipal institutions are not equal to those of our most enlightened neighbors.

Our civil code contains the best features of modern jurisprudence, and its operations are as successful and as free from useless incumbrances as in any part of the Dominion. It has received the most careful attention of the Government and the Legislature and constant effort has been made to render it useful and workable.

It has been conceded on every hand that the administration of justice, so far as it has been in the power of the Government to make it effective, has been wholesome and vigorous. Our criminal code has been brought to a high state of perfection, and the law is administered with a firm hand in the prevention and punishment of crime. When we consider the extent of our sea coast, the physical character of the country, the mixture of populations and the contiguity of the American Republic, the success with which our law has been carried out is not only a matter for congratulation, but has earned for us the admiration of our neighbors.

CONSERVED MORALS AND HEALTH.

Apropos of these reflections, it may be stated, as something not capable of contradiction, that British Columbia is essentially a Province of law and order, and will compare favorably in this regard with any province in the Dominion or any country in the world. There is no country in which the rights of person and property are more sacred or better safeguarded, and if it were not for the offenses imported into our criminal calendar by aliens and a few of our Indians

our record would be unique. In a Western province, which to the Easterner carries with it a significance of what is best understood as the "wild and woolly," this is remarkable. As a people, British Columbians are sober, moral and law abiding, and in no degree, either politically or socially, turbulent.

If we accept this maxim as true, that the people are a reflection of the Government, or the Government a reflection of the people, there is little to condemn in the character of the administration into the history of which have been incorporated conditions such as we have described.

Scarcely less important in the light of the public weal, are sanitary considerations. As the direct result of dangers, then present and prospective, the Government placed on the statute book a Health Act, sound in principle, comprehensive in scope and drastic in application. In the face of an emergency, such as confronted the Province two years ago, the Government acted promptly and vigorously and stamped out the infection, and to-day machinery is provided whereby, without extraordinary means, any epidemic may be stayed and the general health conserved by the application of sound sanitary measures.

GOOD MINING LAWS.

A few years ago, when vein mining began to attract attention, the mining laws, which had had special reference to placer work, required careful revision, and at this task the Government set itself to work. In a new country, without experience in the requirements of quartz development, legislation must be to some extent experimental, and so it proved in this instance. Miners themselves, largely of the prospecting class, were very much divided in opinion as to what the law