

centralisation which improved methods of communication have made possible, the system works differently, and the old order is rapidly disappearing. Competition and the rapid decay of the fur trade in so many districts contribute much to the change in the character of the officers, and with it the general aspect of the Company as an institution must in a few years' time be altered beyond recognition.

It is useless to regret the inevitable, but a casual traveller may be pardoned if he deplores the invasion of the spirit of modern dividend-hunting into a domain so romantic and inspiring. For the trail of economy is over all. Old servants are being dismissed, and their places taken by cheaper



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men. Forts are abandoned, and Indians forced to move to follow their markets, and everywhere there is a consciousness of uncertainty as to the future, and ignorance of what the next move from headquarters may be, that but ill replaces