

and large acquaintance with the country's possibilities and requirements, and whose personal interests are bound up with the welfare and progress of the Province. The representation in both Houses, which has remained as it was fixed at confederation, will be immediately increased in proportion to the increase in population.

In its efforts to advance the material prosperity of the Province, the Government has not lost sight of that which alone can support through a period of generations the stability of the state. It has ever since the date of Confederation been the especial care of each succeeding Government to make the most liberal provisions for educational purposes, and to create a school system which should be second to none on the continent. Hon. Mr. Beaven devoted, during the period of his administration, a great deal of thought to this question, and the educational system as it exists to-day is partly his workmanship. During the past four years Hon. John Robson, Premier and Provincial Secretary, has taken charge of this department of the Government and, with the assistance of the Educational Superintendent, Mr. S. D. Pope, has made a great many improvements of much value, and got the system into the most perfect and admirable working order. To-day there is not in the whole Province a community which has not easy access to all the advantages which this system of free public education affords. The system of British Columbia combines many of the excellencies of that of Ontario, as well as those of the maritime provinces. The most conspicuous differences between the system of British Columbia and that of Ontario, are that the former is strictly non-sectarian and provides more liberally than the latter, inasmuch as not only are school sites and school buildings paid for directly from the Provincial treasury, but the salaries of the teachers and all incidental expenses connected with the operation of the schools are paid from the same source. As an evidence of the increasing prosperity of the country at large it may be stated that provision has been made for the salaries of nearly 200 teachers, amounting to \$150,000, and school buildings amounting to \$50,000. There are at present four high schools in the province, one in each of the four principal cities, viz.: Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster, and Nanaimo. Each of these schools is well equipped with efficient teachers. There are also throughout the province eleven graded schools, four ward schools and one hundred and ten rural schools. The high schools are fed