

poverty—that is to say, no class-poverty; on the contrary, every working man either is, or has the chance of speedily becoming, a capitalist. In fact, nowhere does the wealth of the country seem on the whole to be so evenly distributed—nowhere are the relations between labour and capital less violently strained. Even the great Chinese question, pregnant source of strife between employer and employed in the Colonies, hardly can arouse discussion, except when some political emergency brings it to the fore as the useful gag of a discontented party. Nor is there any cause to deplore the financial condition of the Province. The Treasury is not unreasonably burdened with debt; taxation is not heavy; the expenses of administration are very moderate. Free education, the heaviest charge upon the revenues, is provided with a liberality of which any Government might justly be proud; schools being established throughout the length and breadth of the land where it would have been absolutely impossible for the settlers themselves to have secured the poorest kind of instruction for their children. And yet, notwithstanding this general and satisfactory progress, the country, as I say, is not being developed as it should be; its resources are still potential; it has failed to commend itself to the English business man as a place where his energies and means may be profitably employed.

Of a certain class of emigrant we could easily get more than enough, the difficulty is rather to dam the flood than to provide a channel for its flow: for, though it is very possible a miscellaneous population would, after experiencing the usual miseries and hardships, settle down into various occupations and prove useful wage-earners, the experiment is too dangerous to be tried by any country which has a reputation worth losing, least of all by one whose present position as regards the labouring classes is particularly free from anxiety and strain.

But you may reasonably ask, "What is the matter?" Why not be content with the healthy progress of the past? Why try to force a country beyond its natural rate of development?

It is true that were British Columbia of no more especial moment to the British nation as a whole than the so-called dependencies of our Crown are to the average British householder, we might be content to relegate it in our minds to the position of a dumping-ground for incapacity and discontent. But it is far otherwise. This Province is the only foothold which Great Britain possesses on the North Pacific coast. It is, fortunately, a very large foothold. Now, the trade of the Pacific has increased enormously within a

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