

THE POINT OF THE PEN

THE CITY OF THE JUBILEE.

There is no doubt that the great celebration in London has made a wonderful impression, not only upon the people of the British Empire, but on outsiders as well. Many Americans were present, and they seem to be of one mind in their appreciation of the event. Chauncey M. Depew referred to it as the greatest gathering of human beings the world has ever seen, and the correspondents of the New York daily papers seem to agree with him. No doubt the representatives of the different European nations were equally impressed with the greatness of the British Empire, and it is quite probable that the effect upon them may tend to preserve the peace of Europe. But after all there was nothing so very wonderful in the procession itself.

Although nearly all parts of the Empire were represented, there were very few from any one place. The great Dominion of Canada, with nearly forty thousand volunteers, was only allowed to send two hundred soldiers to join in the procession, although it would gladly have sent more. So far as numbers were concerned there was nothing very remarkable about the procession. There have probably been bigger processions before. What was it, then, that so impressed all the visitors? It was the multitude of onlookers. The celebration took place in the greatest city of the world, where within a few square miles are concentrated as many people as we have in the whole of Canada's vast Dominion, and nearly the whole population of the city was in the streets

on the great day of the Jubilee. An immense number of visitors from other parts of England and from abroad were present, but it was London's own population that made the greatest showing.

In the year 1869 a commission was appointed to consider the best means of increasing the water supply of London. This commission expressed the conviction that the time was very remote when the population of London would be 4,500,000. Twenty-three years afterward, when the population dependent upon the London waterworks was nearly six millions, a committee of the London County Council was appointed to again consider the question of water supply. This committee reported that if London maintained the same rate of growth during the next fifty years as it did between 1881 and 1891, then the population dependent upon the waterworks in 1941 would be 17,527,645. They estimated that even if there were no accessions of population from outside and the growth of the city depended entirely upon the natural increase by the excess of births over deaths, the population would be 10,836,989 in 1941, and said that if they disregarded all ratios of increase and simply added for each decade the precise number of persons added in the ten years preceding 1891, they would obtain 9,966,687 as the population of 1941.

After weighing all considerations the committee determined that the population in 1941 would be not less than 12,500,000, and decided to recommend that the scale of the new waterworks should be adjusted to this com-