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THE NATION'S PROGRESS

THERE is no cause for anxiety in the present condition of Canadian politics. The air is sharp with conflict, as it must always be where a party system is in vogue, but it is tolerably free from serious disturbances. Considerable has been said of late years about Canada's political decadence, and about the evils that have crept into our public life; and some of these charges, subject to qualification, have been only too well founded. Yet even the admitted wrongs have grown out of the development of the country, and our national expansion is evident politically as well as industrially.

Canadians are not, however, a people to be trifled with. They dislike humbug, and while they may for a time submit, for party's sake, to what their better judgment condemns, it will be found that sooner or later they will demand a reckoning. It has been said, for example, that Ontario, the political centre of the Dominion, was a hot-bed of partyism, out of which reform was almost hopeless; a timely refutation of this charge was given by the recent provincial election, which had been preceded by one of the bitterest and sharpest campaigns on record. Without considering to what extent political reform was involved in the victory of one or the other party, the encouraging feature is that a large majority of the people expressed their convictions, irrespective of party. Otherwise, such a result would not have been possible. If

people can be brought to do this, not once, but always, there will be bright hope for future Canadian politics, and it matters comparatively little whether Conservative or Liberal be in power, for both will then find clean records a necessity.

In federal politics the situation is nationally hopeful. The present parliamentary session is, more than anything else, a business meeting of a business administration, and through the majority of the discussions one may easily see national progress. Provincially, Canada has had some questionable politics, but Canada as a whole has had, and is having, clean government. There is reason in this for gratulation, and the patriotic Canadian need have no present fear for his country's public affairs.

North-West Autonomy

CONVINCING proof of Western progress will be the elevation of four territories into provincial rights, as provided for in a measure now before Parliament. North-West autonomy has for some years been a growing question; the time has now come, even in the opinion of our legislators, for it to materialize. The bill introduced by the Premier creates two new provinces, as follows: The area made up of the four territories of Alberta, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and Athabasca will be divided almost equally by the 110th meridian; west of this line will be the new