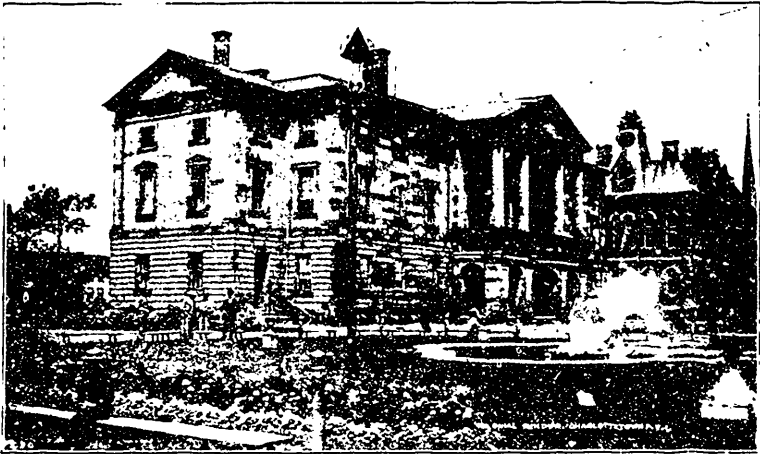


countered, and of the courage and hopes that animate them for the future.

For a century and a half the French Canadians fought and bled for their country; they had to face famine and savages, war with the British, and, what was worse, the neglect and indifference of the parent state at the most critical period of their history; but since the conquest they have built up a large community by the banks of the St. Lawrence and its tributaries, and even the superior energy and enterprise of the English Canadians

by bursts of sunlight, as the axe opened up new centres of settlement and echoed the progress of the advanced guards of civilization. Years of hardship and struggle ensued, and political difficulties followed to add to individual trials, but the people were courageous and industrious and soon surmounted the obstacles of early times. The material development went hand in hand with the political progress of the country. The magnificent heritage which the people of Canada now own is the result of unremitting toil and never-failing patience,



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, 1900.

have not prevented them from making a province which is essentially French Canadian, and affords many evidences of prosperity due to the hardihood of the race that inhabits it.

A century and more has passed since the English-speaking people sought their fortunes in the West or on the shores of the Atlantic. For years many of these hardy pioneers led toilsome lives—lives of solitude, among the great forests that overshadowed the whole country; but year by year the darkness of the woods was brightened

and, summing up the achievements of the past, they may well look forward with hopefulness to the future, for of them it may be truly said:

“Men the workers ever reaping something new;
That which they have done but earnest of
the things that they will do.”

What is to be the next great step in the political career of Canada is a question which frequently occurs to imperial as well as colonial statesmen. One thing is quite certain, that the movement is towards