

running between Vancouver and Japan, the coming connection with Australia, and the hoped-for swift steamers between Halifax and Liverpool will enable British commerce to travel over British soil and under the British flag to the furthest confines of Asia. Indeed, no more prophetic words were ever written than those penned by William H. Seward when Secretary of State under President Lincoln:—

“ Having its Atlantic seaport at Halifax and its Pacific depot near Vancouver Island, British America would inevitably draw to it the commerce of Europe, Asia and the United States. Thus from a mere colonial dependency it would assume a controlling rank in the world. To her other nations would be tributary; and in vain would the United States attempt to be her rival, for we could never dispute with her the possession of the Asiatic commerce, nor the power which that commerce confers.”

To-day the C.P.R. is menacing the prosperity of American railroads, upon which were spent twice the capital and around which hovers the prestige of many years' business and experience. But competition is useless. The great natural highway of the continent is upon Canadian soil, and minor roads must necessarily become tributary to its progress.

Precedent to the building of the Canadian Pacific was the Confederation of the Provinces. Commencing with Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, under the guiding hand and inspiration of that patriotic and far-seeing statesman, Sir John Macdonald, it was but a few years before the Dominion covered the ground from ocean to ocean, and from the great lakes to the Arctic regions. Since 1867 the scattered Provinces have become a nation: the hesitating people, spread over far-distant territories, have begun to understand the sentiment of unity, while a magnetic personality, combined with the aspirations of a patriot, have enabled the late great Canadian leader to start a rising nation upon the high-road to greatness. More he could not do, and the future depends upon the will of a people who are now being sorely subjected to alien interference and internal doubt and difficulty. Of the material prosperity thus secured within the Dominion,