

temperature, there cannot be a doubt that it is not only enduring, but is healthy and salubrious.

Viewing Canada as one consolidated country, extending across the widest and not the least valuable portion of the continent of America, embracing a marvellous breadth of fertile and unoccupied land, with a healthy, invigorating climate ; with illimitable mineral resources ; with supplies of timber in her forests second to those of no country in the world ; with inexhaustible fisheries in its great lakes and rivers, and around its coast on three oceans ; with deposits of coal and iron of unmeasured extent in the interior of the country, and on the Atlantic as well as on the Pacific seaboard ; taking all these natural elements of future wealth and greatness into consideration, the problem which presents itself is, the development of a country which has been provided with natural resources so lavishly. The question is, how to colonise the northern half of North America, and render it the home of a happy and vigorous people. It is true that Canada already has a population of some four millions, but as yet the mere outer fringe of the country is occupied. We are only beginning to realise the fact that the interior has space for many times the present population. It is just beginning to dawn upon Canadians themselves that in the territories which have been described, there is room, and to spare, and there exist the elements of support, for a greater population than the mother-country. No wonder, then, that the problem to be solved appears one of weighty importance.

The waterways of a country present the natural means of colonisation. In bygone times, rivers and lakes, the shores of bays and estuaries, have been followed by adventurous races, and these natural channels have thus in all ages furnished the means of spreading the human family. Canada is not wanting in highways of this kind, although many of them are subject to drawbacks which will presently be referred to. On the eastern side she has the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which in many respects resembles the Baltic. To the north she has Hudson's Bay, a sheet almost half as large as the Mediterranean. She has lakes, but they are really seas, and they breed storms and tempests like the Atlantic. I might attempt to describe a dozen of these inland freshwater seas, but I should fail to convey a correct idea of their character and importance. Fortunately I can refer to a description of the waterways of Canada by a master-hand. I cannot, I am sure, quote higher authority than that great traveller and distinguished nobleman, the Governor-General. On a recent occasion, Lord Dufferin, standing as near as possible midway between the Atlantic and the