

the notice and respect of the mother-country, they have naturally fretted under that supreme indifference, almost contemptuous indifference, which, too long, was meted out to the people of England's Colonial dependencies.

But now, *nous avons changé tout cela*. It can no longer be said that this indifference has any existence, so far as Canada is concerned. For some years past, ever since the establishment of the Federal Union, the attention of the statesmen and the publicists of England has been directed to the development of her Premier Colony, and not only on the floor of Parliament, but on the public platform, and in the periodicals and journals of the day has she been encouraged in her work of progress. The consolidation of the Empire in North America is necessarily a national work, calculated to engage the sympathies of British statesmen, and it is not strange that so many of them have at last been brought to consider whether prosperous communities with so many elements of greatness could not be brought into more intimate relations with the Empire at large.

Probably no more significant fact can be given in this connection than the constant influx every year of distinguished visitors from the British Isles, desirous of seeing for themselves the evidences of the wealth and capabilities of Canada. During the past summer, for instance, Canada was visited by several agricultural delegates, who have been able to inform themselves on those features of Canadian development which are of practical value to the masses of the mother-country, now suffering under the miseries arising from poor harvests and manufacturing depression. But this is only one among many facts which illustrate the attention that is at last being directed to a country which has, within thirty years, attained a high position among commercial and industrial communities.

Under these circumstances, the present is an opportune time for reviewing some of the most salient features of the political system which has, within so short a period, given so remarkable a stimulus to the industrial progress of the Dominion, and for presenting at the same time some facts which show the high position it occupies among the dependencies of England. In such a review, it is not the pretension of the writer to bring forward any original ideas, for the subject is one that has been treated in many ways of late years; but all he hopes to do is to group together in a single paper certain facts and opinions which he has had special facilities for collecting, and which may contribute to the discussion of a subject which ought to be interesting to everyone who values the integrity of the Empire.

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