

With the Author's Consent

To be read at a Meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, to be held at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, Whitehall Place, on Tuesday, February 9, at 8 P.M., Lieut.-General R. W. Lowry, C.B., in the Chair.

BRITISH COLUMBIA: A PROBLEM OF COLONIAL
DEVELOPMENT.

By the Rev. CANON BEANLANDS, M.A., of Victoria, B.C.

I FEEL that I owe an apology at the outset for taking up your time with the remarks I am about to make. If the audience before me had been composed for the most part of those who had never had experience of life outside the Mother Country there would have been an excuse for presenting to them opinions upon Colonial matters which must be necessarily immature, but which might at any rate be suggestive and convey information. But I see before me to-night men of wide Colonial experience, accustomed for many years past to dealing with those questions which have only recently presented themselves to my mind; and I have to ask their kind indulgence in promoting a discussion which may to them appear wholly vain and unnecessary.

The portion of the British Empire with which I have been intimately associated for the past seven years is British Columbia. I have lived in its capital, Victoria, since before railway days; and I have slept in the backwoods of Burrard Inlet where now is the heart of the new city Vancouver. That was in 1884. Since then I have seen the population double and quadruple. I have seen the value of land round the towns rise by what would appear excessive bounds, but I have not seen that development of the resources of the country which I consider its merits justify one in expecting. Nor does it seem probable that such development will be brought about until the country comes to be regarded at Home from quite a different point of view to that from which it has been regarded in the past.

But I must not be misunderstood: this is not an appeal *ad misericordiam* on behalf of my fellow-residents. They are by no means to be pitied, for a more relatively comfortable or prosperous life than that which is enjoyed by British Columbians I think would be hard to find within Her Majesty's Dominions. There is no