

THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

But it needed also rulers who knew the inner life of our people, who sympathized with our difficulties, and who would not crush our aspirations—a governing body which would remember that we had to subjugate the earth, meet its wildness and make a living for ourselves. On the whole we have had a kind and wise nursing mother in our Canadian Parliament. It is just forty years since the Canadian Parliament began to legislate for western Canada. The Manitoba Act was passed under conditions of great stress, and a large amount of legislation since that day has had to do with Manitoba and its sister western provinces. Taken altogether the Dominion Houses have done this with caution, and yet in a progressive spirit, and the legislation of the local governing bodies has been based very largely on Canadian models.

Questions of land tenure and sale, forestry, agriculture, seed advances, care of the Indians, native rights, immigration, education, banks and finance, customs, railways, provincial subsidies, post offices, lawlessness and insurrection, police and military, have supplied a fertile field for differences of opinion, and at times of angry remonstrance, for we are made up of many mixed races and varied interests.

It is quite true that according to the jurists, "Government is founded on the rights of men." According to the evolutionary philosophy, when races and communities are brought together, they must work out their struggle in the survival of the fittest. Fortunately that is not a complete philosophy. Benjamin Kidd has shown in his "Social Evolution," and the late Professor Drummond in his "Ascent of Man," that there are other principles deeply imbedded in human nature, such as religious feeling, humanity and affection, which modify the struggle which the stern bed of Procrustes would demand.

Canada with its nine or ten communities, different races, different languages, different religious conceptions and different habits and environments can only be successfully governed under this wider philosophy, by sympathetic dealing and patient forbearance, rather than by a hard and fast logic.

The task of gathering the scattered units of Canada and welding them together in these forty years has been done chiefly by two great leaders, though they have been aided most ably by other men of the highest ability.

These two men of different shades of politics agreed especially in one thing: *they both believed in Western Canada.*

To deal with two insurrections in the west, to unite hostile and diverse elements, to allay discontent on railway questions, and to grapple with the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway from the Atlantic