

CANADA'S DEVELOPMENT.

OUR visitors are surprised and pleased to discover in Canada the evidences of industrial progress that have, up to this moment, attracted their attention. The half, however, has not been told. This larger portion of the North American continent is so extensive, its industries so numerous, its possibilities so great, that no body of men making a sudden incursion into any one part of it can be expected to appreciate and comprehend the whole. Possibly the most marked characteristic of the country is the freedom of its institutions. Here we have, under the Sovereign whom Canadians, in common with other British subjects, delight to honor, a full degree of political liberty. We rule ourselves in accordance with the British constitutional system, and we flatter ourselves that under that system we have a Government more responsive to the popular will than the Government of any land outside of the Empire to which we belong.

Has our system of self-government been conducive to the well-being of Canada and of the Empire? The answer is surely to be found in the improved conditions of the country during the past thirty years. We commenced business in a small way, a fur-trading and lumber-selling people, with scattered agricultural settlements along the river banks. The earliest efforts of the pioneers were directed to the cause of education. We see the results of the labours of that day not only in the primary schools but in the great seats of learning. Material considerations, however, affected the Canadians of the last generation. They perceived the necessity for rapid communication, and gave us the nucleus of the railway system, covering some sixteen

thousand miles, which we now have. Then commenced a period of development. The settler, no longer restricted to the waterways, was able to occupy and to cultivate "the back country," and, consequently, more room was found for producers. New forces gave birth to further steps forward. We brought all the provinces under one government; we added the vast North-West and British Columbia to our area, and we connected the Atlantic and the Pacific by rail. Now Canada, though divided into provinces for the purposes of purely local administration, is one country. The circumstance which led us in the exercise of our powers of self-government to unite politically and to reach out commercially was our faith in the capabilities of the vast country which is our. It was believed that Canada was rich in minerals, rich in timber, rich in fertile areas, rich in fisheries, rich, indeed, in all that goes to make up a powerful and prosperous State. It was felt that the utilization of our resources would be a paying enterprise, not only contributing to the wealth of the country, but affording homes for British people and fields for the profitable employment of British capital. Canada has not been disappointed. A panoramic view of the Dominion to-day reveals a measure of activity that bears testimony to the wisdom of the men of all parties who labored for a united country and a progressive policy. What is being done at the present moment? Our famous business of lumbering—prosecuted in New Brunswick, where the great deals are sawn for the British market; in Quebec and Ontario, whose northern districts are rich not only in pine, but in the spruce from which paper is made; and in British Columbia, the home