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No. 85.—HON. MR. TRUTCH,
 CHIEF GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The new addition, to the Dominion, of the Province of British Columbia, completes the chain of Canadian Confederation westward to the Pacific Ocean, adds new dignity to the country and imposes fresh and most serious responsibilities upon its rulers. With this consummation the long talked of Canadian Pacific Railway passes from the region of vague speculation to that of positive necessity; and from that again it is soon doomed to advance to the further stage of actual accomplishment. The dreams that the future presents are not, however, to be realized in a day. Ten years have been allowed for the completion of this great undertaking, without which the greater part of the country must be regarded as a body without a spine, and therefore incapable of self exertion. But though these ten years may be exceeded, the fact of the work's progress will add to the prosperity of the old Provinces, and do very much towards the settlement of the North West and the increase of the population of British Columbia. The expenditure will be but an addition to the wealth of the country, for the increase both of productiveness and of consumption caused thereby will repay the Dominion tenfold for its outlay. It is in this light that the local hearings of the new enterprise consequent upon the admission of British Columbia into the Confederation may be viewed. But higher and nobler ends occur to the mind of the patriot as he views—in prospect—a cordon of thriving British Provinces, each administering its own internal affairs, and all regulated by the Central Government, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, backing against the frozen North, and bordering only upon the kindred people of the United States. In that family of States he sees the future home of "Britain in America," the dream of some old world patriots, but we might say the future actuality to many of the best students of political science in these Colonies, where, though theorists are scarce—

happily so, we think—practical administrators can readily be found to meet the present and prepare for the future with a sagacity which one is tempted to believe can hardly at this day be found in the Imperial Cabinet. The great scheme of British American Union was not a sudden thought. The seed had been sown more than half a

century ago, and it is more than forty years since Imperial sagacity, then unafflicted with political dilettantism, discovered, and prepared for, the then future capital by constructing the Rideau Canal from Kingston to Bytown. These old thoughts are gradually emerging into the domain of reality. The senseless sectional quarrel between Upper and Lower Canada gave the occasion to the Crown for fixing the Capital at Ottawa; and a happy but strange inspiration subsequently led our quarrelsome

politicians to unite for the sake of confederating the Provinces. It seems odd that scarcely seven years have elapsed since even the "smaller Confederation" was regarded by many as a vain dream; and that to-day, with the trifling insular exceptions on the Atlantic Coast, the "larger Confederation" is in its fullest sense a fixed fact. With the extent, resources, climatology, &c., of British Columbia, we need not at present deal, as they have already been very fully discussed in our columns in the able papers written by the Rev. Father Dawson, of Ottawa. Nor need the railway question be specially treated on now, as the indefatigable Mr. Waddington has thrown much light upon it by the second edition of his pamphlet recently issued, and the Government surveyors are already at work to determine its route. But the political difficulties in the way of the Union of British Columbia with the other Provinces were enormous, and in many cases altogether exceptional. San Francisco was virtually the "Montreal" of our Pacific brethren, and as a consequence the commercial interest had a temptation towards annexation to the United States. The same feeling was fostered by two other causes—the presence of a considerable proportion of Americans in the population, and the belief—whether well or ill-founded—that the Colonial Office was really neglecting the interests of British Columbia. Under these circumstances the agitation for Union with Canada was carried on under exceptional difficulties. Distance in this case really disenchanted the view, making the Canadians apathetic and the Colum-

bians distrustful. But the battle for Union was ably carried on. In spite of some of the members of the oligarchical Council by which the Colony was mainly governed, and through which of course official patronage had to flow, matters were at length brought to such a pass that definite terms of Union were approved by the people and Government of British Columbia; assented to with slight modifications by the Parliament; approved by the Legislature of the Colony, and finally given effect to by the Queen's Proclamation, making British Columbia



HON. MR. TRUTCH, LT.-GOV. OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.
 FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NOTMAN.

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