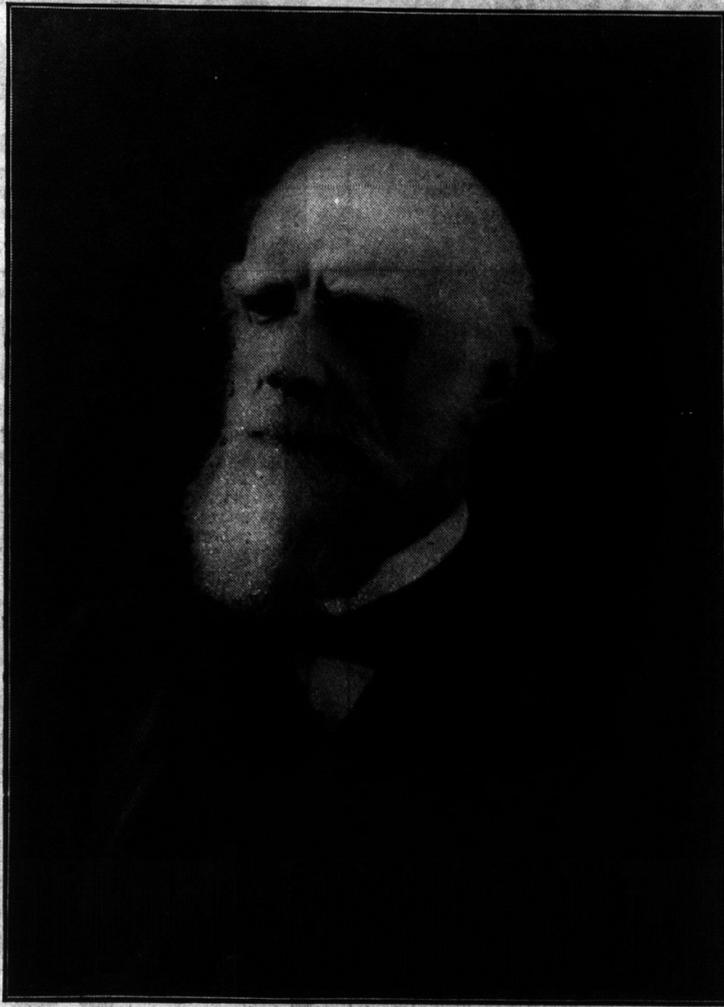


A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE to "Western Home Monthly" Readers

From Canada's Distinguished Representative in London
The Right Honorable Lord Strathcona



LORD STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL

THE editor has once again asked me to say a few words of seasonable greeting through the columns of "The Western Home Monthly." ¶ At this time of the year it is customary, I suppose, to look back upon the preceding twelve months, and also to look forward and make, let us hope, good resolutions for the future—some of which may be carried out and many not! ¶ In Canada, we have been free from many of the disturbances, political and otherwise, which have perturbed other countries during the year; and for such mercies we ought to be profoundly thankful. ¶ The Western parts of the Dominion, and for that matter the Eastern Provinces as well, have enjoyed another period of progress and expansion. Although the crops in the West—and these are the foundation of the prosperity of the country—did not turn out quite as well as the early promise led us to expect, yet on the whole they have been satisfactory and profitable to the Western peoples. Trade has been good, emigration large, and of the right class, and much has been done to improve railway communications, to make the country more accessible, and to open up new channels for the transportation of produce of all kinds to market. ¶ But above and beyond this, the unity and solidarity of the Dominion appears to be getting stronger every year. There are signs also that the Imperial sentiment is maintaining its strenuous hold upon the people. "The Empire our Country; Canada our Home" is the happy motto of all good Canadians. ¶ So far as can be seen, the Dominion is on the threshold of an era of development and prosperity; and the future bids fair to far exceed anything that has been witnessed in the past. Given good seasons, and satisfactory crops, Canada is bound to continue to go ahead, considering her many advantages and abundant resources. ¶ But Canadians must be careful not to endeavor to advance too quickly. "Steady and Sure" should be their watchword. They must bear in mind that in order to do proper justice to the great heritage they possess, they have to rely upon the help and assistance of others. They must preserve the good reputation they have attained, and maintain the confidence of the financial centres of the world. ¶ I shall not live to see it, but I look forward with confidence to the future when Canada will be teeming with population; one of the greatest agricultural countries of the world; a busy hive of manufactures; her mines in full exploitation; the fisheries yielding abundantly; and the timber lands giving large returns as the result of the careful policy of conservation, which I believe will yet be adopted. And the British flag still floating proudly over the land from the Atlantic to the Pacific! ¶ Let Canadians keep such a picture before them as their ideal; and it is as sure to be realized as year follows year, and the world continues to roll on in its present orbit.

Strathcona

