

THE  
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CANADA—EAST AND WEST.

There is no subject which claims a larger share of public attention at present than the relation of the two parts of the United Province of Canada to one another. A suspicion is abroad in both sections that the interests of the one are not identical with those of the other. Like the Frog in the fable, each is disposed alternately to say to the other, "What is sport to you is death to me." Such a state of things is certainly to be regretted, and must be a source of anxiety to every patriot. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that in almost every department of our polity the East and the West are at present in unfortunate rivalry. In matters of commerce, public works and navigation, this is very evident. The West cannot get a handful of the public money for works of general utility or for the development of its vast resources, but the East must, whether it needs it or not, claim a proportionate share, and so on *vice versa*. In politics, as well as in matters material, we find the same intense rivalry between West and East. The expansive and progressive spirit of the West chafes at the contracting and conservative spirit of the East. The principles which are thought suitable for the regulation of the public administration in the West are all but repudiated in the East. The great political question of the day, namely, that of "Representation by Population," is one that will undoubtedly give rise to a prolonged and acrimonious conflict. On this matter the West is unanimous, whereas the East, so far as the power and influence of the priests are concerned, will give a strenuous opposition to such a concession. That the East must yield to the unanimous determination of the West is very likely. If it were wise it would do so gracefully as an act of justice and not of compulsion. This great question once settled, it is obvious that the vigour and intelligence of the West will exert a greater influence on the general legislation of the country than they have yet done. We may then expect the inauguration of a more liberal and patriotic policy than has been hitherto possible with the existing legislative arrangements of the two sections of the country. We may further note as rivalries in our public affairs the local and sectional interests