

INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE

At the Montreal Conference, our country like ours material development had to a certain extent, paid off which is intellectual, while the general acknowledged. In a few years, during the first and main object to the system was to take enough from the soil to support the inhabitants. As a result, it is now more than emerged, it has been added to this alone, and it is only when by persevering diligence, a definite sense has been achieved and the supply of bodily wants secured, that attention can be given to other necessities of the mind. To this extent, it may be said, that progress must antedate material. Without some basis of knowledge the land would remain undeveloped. It is for the lack of such a basis that our tribe makes no material advance. And all material prosperity is proportionate to the amount of knowledge, combined with energy, which is brought to bear on the performance of life's ordinary duties. Not purely intellectual efforts have to turn their necessary foundation in achieved material success. The practical work of life must go before culture and accomplishments. This is equally true of an individual, of a household, of a community or a nation. We see the recognition of its truth in the exaggeration of it sometimes—in the case which is made in old countries of the term "colonist" and "colonial." They almost always imply comparative intellectual backwardness. The reproach which they thus made to convey originated probably in the colonial system of past ages, and, although the ultra-oceanic possessions of Great Britain in the present day are, with insignificant exceptions, on a totally different footing from that which they used to hold, the traditional notion still largely prevails. Except among the travelled or enlightened, a colony, even though it be called a Dominion, bears an undesirable mark of inferiority. We need scarcely say that we consider this assumption altogether without foundation. Taking the Canadian people, as a whole, for instance, we cannot allow that they are intellectually, morally, physically or socially inferior to the people of England, as a whole. If comparison were justly drawn, indeed, it would probably be found that in general intelligence we are their equals, if not superior to them in every respect. When we come to compare the intellectual products of the two nations, the old and the young, we naturally find an immense difference. And for the reason which we have already mentioned. It would be more reasonable to compare Canada with Canada's manufacturing district of England, of the same population as our own, though even then many considerations would have to be taken into account. The real question is whether we have made as good use of our advantages for intellectual culture as England has made of hers. It is conceded that, in point of literary production, French Canada is not unworthy of the great nation with which it is proud to claim kindred. Has British Canada done anything to deserve equal praise? Has entire Canada, in statesmanship, literature, art, science, scholarship, given any unequivocal signs that it is following in the footsteps of its European predecessors and brethren? To answer these questions it would be necessary to point out Canada's achievements in these fields of intellectual effort. It is strange that on such a subject there should be so little popularly known even in Canada. We can hardly wonder that English people should not know much about it. We have before us the address of a book sent for review to "Montreal, United States of America." Yet surely a literature that has given rise to several histories cannot be altogether contemptible. It is fourteen years since Mr. Morgan's "Bibliotheca Canadensis" was welcomed by the foremost of British reviewers. Since then the Rev. Father Dawson, the Hon. P. J. O. Chauvin, Mr. Lareau, Mr. Sulte and others have dealt at greater or less length with the subject of Canadian literature. Eighteen years ago the Rev. Dr. Dewart compiled from the native English poetry of Canada a work whose magnitude and character indicated the variety of the sources from which he drew. Since then, in this and other branches of literature, has the promise given in those "Selections" been kept? Or, in fine, what stage of our intellectual development may we now be said to have reached? For some months past J. G. Bourdant has been bravely and hopefully endeavouring to answer this question in the pages of the "Canadian Monthly" and he has justified his efforts in the form of a neat little book, his essay on the subject. His "Historical Review" of the "Intellectual development of the Canadian people" is an interesting and valuable contribution to Canadian history. It was long before us, before the gleam of a brighter day rose above the gloom which had settled down on Canada at the conquest. It was not, indeed, until after the union of 1840 that there was much decided evidence of intellectual progress. With that event, however, though it was to the French element in the population, came the dawn of reconciliation, with increased facilities for trade and intercourse, and a quickening of moral and intellectual energy. Cities, towns and villages began to spring up rapidly, population increased, resources were developed and general prosperity diffused. In 1867 a further impulse was given to intellectual activity, and a common bond of interest and a common purpose imparted to the hitherto divided communities. The resolutions which formed the basis of our constitution gave ample evidence of the political wisdom of the statesmen of the Union period. In 1810 there were only 63 journals in Canada; in 1857 there were 243; in 1870 there were 432, and now there are about 463, of which some 60 are daily. In 1870, 1,083, 451 lbs. of newspaper at one cent per lb. passed through the post office of the Dominion, and 6,610 copies were posted otherwise. In this respect, therefore, there has been no lack of progress. It was in 1851 and the following years that important measures were first passed for the establishment of sound popular education. Normal schools were founded

some years later. Now in Ontario no child, however poor, received the benefit of education, and in Quebec and the other provinces even Manitoba, which has an excellent system, the work of public education is carried on with judgment and energy. Though in some districts there is still room for improvement, yet a great deal has been effected, and the tendency everywhere is in the direction of progress. Higher education, which was once quite neglected in Canada, is now placed on a satisfactory footing. Besides universities and colleges, all the denominations have founded and endowed institutions of their own. For professional education good provision has been made in all the provinces, and industrial schools are coming into favour. Intellectual literature Canada has recently added to its honourable rank and magazines and journals for the interchange of thought among professors and teachers are well supported. Other periodicals, both French and English, are in all the chief cities, of which some are devoted to general literature, some to science, some to specialties, while others are illustrated. In poetry and fiction Canada has made a creditable advance during the last half century, and the names of some of our novelists and poets, both French and English, are known beyond our own limits. In history works of acknowledged value have been produced. In criticism and essay writing a beginning has, at least been made. Some of our orators compare favourably with the most foremost public speakers of both hemispheres. Canadian writers on constitutional history, on jurisprudence, on medicine, are quoted as authorities in most civilized lands in Europe. But it is in science that we have to boast of the most distinguished names. Meagre as is this summary of Mr. Bourdant's carefully written (though not quite faultless) review of our intellectual development, it will we hope, suffice to give encouragement and confidence to those who may have been hitherto carelessly afraid of the sneers of outsiders. We owe some gratitude to Mr. Bourdant for stating our case so well. We are too apt, perhaps, in aude by alien judgment whether it be worth while, instead of examining and comparing for ourselves—too apt to be pleased at the strangers' compliments and to cower at their reproofs, as we could abundantly instance. As yet, it is true, we have no cause to vaunt ourselves, but we must remember, as Mr. Morgan reminds us in his "Annual Register," that "a century ago the people of the United States, like ourselves, were without a literature," at least without anything worthy of the name. If they have raised so much so small a foundation, why should not we? "As our political horizon widens," so Mr. Morgan concludes, "and a more expansive national existence opens before us, so must our intellectual life become not only more vigorous, but more replete with evidences of graceful culture." But need we await the bidding of some foreign potentate of letters or science before we recognize the ability of our own sons? It was not thus that our neighbours made way for their Longfellows, their Danes, their Emersons and their Melvilles.

THE BUDGET SPEECH

On Monday last, in the Quebec Legislature, Mr. Robertson made his budget speech.—

Mr. Robertson said—Mr. Speaker, in making the usual motion on occasions like the present, that you do now leave the chair and that the House form itself into Committee of Supply, I hope I may rely on the consideration and kindness from honorable members which has always been accorded to others and myself in similar circumstances. I will endeavour to be brief in my remarks, and shall confine myself strictly to explanations respecting the financial position of the Province, which I know is considered as one of the most important questions before the House and the country at the present time. In former years the financial report of the Treasurer merely consisted of statements of our ordinary receipts and expenditure—the one from our usual source, revenue; the other for the usual purposes of the public service. The Public Accounts for the fiscal year ending the 30th of June last have been submitted to the House. The estimated revenue for the year exceeded the actual receipts by some \$700,000, and the actual disbursements in the ordinary general business of the Province, exclusive of railways, fell short of the appropriation made by the Legislature by some \$30,000. Two members of the Ontario Government visited Quebec last autumn with the view of consultation as to the best means of settling the accounts between the two Provinces, and between them and the Dominion. These gentlemen thought the Dominion Government at first the claim against the Province which were not well founded, and we agreed on a line of conduct to be adopted in settling with the Dominion. The pressure of business on the Ontario Government preparatory to the session of the legislature, and the season held here and there, and the long continued session of the Dominion Government have prevented the final adjustment of these accounts. Considerable progress has, however, been made in checking and comparing the accounts furnished with our accounts, and it is hoped that during the summer we may be able to finally close up the open accounts between the two Provinces, and also the Dominion accounts. I shall merely give a short synopsis of last year's business. The gross revenue from Public Accounts was \$3,516,631.44. From that deduct the temporary loans, \$1,050,000, receipts from Beauport Asylum, \$12,500; sale of some materials from Government railway, \$60,25;

municipalities able to pay, and which promises are yet being overlooked when in some social cases owing to grants to our municipalities, also to the indebtedness being too large and though no good excuse has ever been offered before the House from time to time loan authorized at the last session of the year, the net proceeds of which are to be used in Quebec after deducting the cost of collection of the Municipal Loan Fund debt should not be applied to the \$17,521, exclusive of some interest and interest only should be calculated as yearly revenue. It we had a surplus of receipts over expenditure this reasoning might be sound and the interest only used of year by year, but I am more appropriately in using the money than to our money received from any other source. The frank patriotic way this question was discussed last session should convince every municipality that prompt payment can alone prevent the collection, and the Legislature will not make any further concession to those who fail to pay. I now come to the estimated receipts from the Government railway, and I trust that these receipts during this year, though showing a growing increase, may not have reached what I expected. It is generally acknowledged that a railway owned and managed by a government, cannot be carried on so economically as it could be by private parties. The reasons which prevent this being done are patent to everyone who knows anything about railway management. The pressure brought to bear by parties who are but some of their friends or relatives placed in situations, or who want exceptional advantages for traffic by parties who fancy they are part owners of the road, as it belongs to the province and therefore entitled to special privileges are well known to everyone, and parties are not very bashful at times in urging their claims for consideration. While therefore acknowledging the difficulty, I don't see the impossibility of the Government running its railway as economical as it leased or sold to a private company for the time being, and while seeing that the Province needs all the revenue from the railway for payment of interest on the cost of its construction which can possibly be derived from its working, there are considerations which may render it good policy for the Government to retain the road in its own hands, at least for a time. I may add that the Government have not received any offer for the sale or lease of the railway, which we feel warranted in advising the House to accept. At the same time the difficulty of the position with respect to our meeting so large a sum annually for interest presses hard on the Executive, and in view of some immediate relief which might be found in our railway was giving as more revenue than at present. The income, I have placed for last year at \$350,000, and there is also coming from the Government of Ontario \$33,000 for interest on funds in their hands, which may be safely calculated upon for part of next year's revenue. These sums united, amount to \$2,745,055, which, as near as I can estimate, may be calculated as forming our revenue next year. There is also the amount of the late made towards the land and building of the Jacques Cartier Normal School, Montreal, which will be realized if the property is sold, formerly occupied as a Normal School. During the year the cost on this account amounts to \$138,319 besides the interest thereon.

Estimates of the expenditure of the Province of Quebec, for the fiscal year ending 30th June—Legislation, \$123,203; Civil Government, \$3,699; Administration of Justice, etc., \$428,087; Public Instruction, etc., \$350,415; Agriculture, Immigration, Reptuation and Colonization, \$107,400; Public Works and Buildings, \$18,107; charities, including lunatic asylums, reformatories and industrial schools, \$289,335; miscellaneous, \$20,000; charges on revenue, \$163,220; to be voted, \$1,030,078. Total voted and to be voted \$2,733,959. Last year I alluded to our relations with the Dominion Government, and referred to the large expense connected with the administration of justice in the Province, under the system in operation since Confederation, and expressed the conviction that the Dominion Government should bear a larger proportion of such cost than is now paid by it. I am still of the opinion, when this question is examined into, it will be found that we have a larger claim upon the Dominion for monies heretofore expended for its agents, trials, convictions and maintenance of offenders against Dominion statutes. On this point we have not received any satisfaction from the Dominion Government. Sooner or later this question must be dealt with, and from the best information I have been able to command, I conceive our pretensions as to the compensation for justice expenses are well founded, and that the Dominion Government will have to assume a larger proportion of our criminal charges and reimburse us and the other provinces for moneys paid on Dominion account. The Government intend to bring this question again before the Dominion authorities. I alluded also to the claim the Province had upon the Dominion for reimbursement of the interest paid by the Province upon Quebec's share of the surplus debt of the late Province of Canada over the \$12,500,000 placed upon the Dominion by the Confederation Act, \$500,000 formerly paid out of this fund on account. The law officers of the Crown are of the opinion that we are justly entitled to the interest kept by the Dominion from July, 1867, to July, 1873, from the Province under the Dominion Legislature, and we fully expect, and have reason to expect, that our claim will be allowed. There can be no question but that our sister Province of Ontario has received subsidies from the Dominion Government towards railway construction at the expense of the other Provinces, which have not been accorded to this Province. In this respect we have not received equal justice from the Dominion Government, and we are not disposed to let the matter rest in its present unsatisfactory position. It will be recollect that Hon. Mr. MacKenzie, when Premier of the Dominion Government, answered to a deputation who applied for aid for the Quebec Railway extension, as was given to Ontario Railways, that this Province should and would receive Dominion assistance towards her railways, and

Immigrants arriving in New York bring an average of \$20 with them.

The stock books of the Emerson and North-Western R.R. Company are to be opened in Emerson on the 6th of June, and will remain open until \$100,000 worth of stock has been issued to subscribers. The company has a charter from the Local Legislature.

HOW TO CHANGE A VESSEL'S NAME

The customs authorities have received a Treasury circular defining the routine that must be pursued by yacht and other vessel owners desiring a change of name, under the authority conferred by the recent act of Congress. Such application must be made to the Secretary through the chief collector of the Customs at the vessel's home port, and satisfactory evidence must be furnished of seaworthy condition, freedom from debt, and the time and place of building. In the case of a steam vessel, a duplicate of the current certificate of inspection from the local inspectors of steam vessels will be accepted as sufficient evidence of seaworthiness. In the case of a sailing vessel, the owner must procure and present a certificate as to her seaworthiness from the Inspector of Hulls for the district in which she is at the time of the application, unless this requirement be specially waived by the department. Inspectors of Hulls are authorized to make examinations of sailing vessels and to certify as to their seaworthiness. All expenses incurred in this service to be paid by the owners. To satisfactorily establish the freedom of a vessel from debt, the owner must, in addition to his own sworn statement, produce such a certificate as is provided for in section 4,191, revised statute, setting forth that the official records at the home port of the vessel show no mortgage, hypothecation, or other evidence of indebtedness outstanding against her. The averments in regard to the time and place of building contained in the last marine documents of the vessel will be accepted as satisfactory evidence on those points. Owners will be required to deposit with the officers of Customs a deposit in advance, sufficient to cover the expenses of advertising as required by the act.