

PROVINCIAL RIGHTS.

A well known gentleman, while in conversation with the writer, referred to the admirable speech recently made by Col. Prior in the House of Commons, in which he signally vindicated the claims of Victoria and the Province of British Columbia to more liberal treatment in the way of Dominion appropriations. He referred to the contemptuous references formerly made by Upper Canada members of the House of Commons to the Provincial calves who were always sucking at the great milch cow, Ontario. "I think," he said, "that men of that class will do well to remember that, taking her altogether, ours is the most prosperous province in the entire confederation, although our great sealing industry has been paralyzed, and the salmon pack is by no means a large one." And the gentleman was right. Let some of the figures cited in the speech of the member for Victoria speak. What do we find? The exports from British Columbia of lumber in 1886 amounted to \$194,448. In 1890, they rose to \$325,881. The exports of fish in 1886 amounted to \$643,052; and for the year ending 30th June, 1890, \$2,374,717. Our whole exports of coal in 1886 amounted to \$973,195, and in 1890 to \$2,375,770. The duty collected in the Victoria custom-house for the year ending June, 1891, amounted to \$923,078.94; the duties collected from Customs in the whole of British Columbia amounted to \$1,357,305.15; the goods that passed through the hands of the Victoria merchants paying over 70 per cent. of the amount of Customs levied in that province. Besides this, the Inland Revenue collected \$149,712 in British Columbia during that period. The total revenue collected in British Columbia, a province with only a small population, was \$1,614,017. The exports for the year ending June 30th, 1890, from the city of Victoria, amounted to \$3,143,280; while the imports for home consumption during the same period amounted to \$3,215,550. The exports for the whole of British Columbia during the same period, were \$5,763,467; and the imports for home consumption for the whole of British Columbia, \$4,387,486. Thus Victoria did 54 per cent. of the export trade, and 75 per cent. of the import trade. As the total exports of British Columbia in the year 1886 were \$2,953,616, and the total exports for the year ending 30th June, 1890, were \$5,763,467, the exports from British Columbia in four years have risen 56 per cent. The total tonnage entering the port of Victoria for the year ending June, 1890, of sea-going vessels, was 662,217 tons, and of coasting vessels 627,504 tons, making a total of 1,289,721 tons. On 30th June, 1890, there were deposited in the Government savings banks of Victoria \$1,155,158, and in the chartered banks on that date there was deposited by the people, outside of the Government deposits, \$2,788,271. The post office revenue of Victoria has risen from \$23,756 in 1887 to \$33,543 in the year ending 30th June, 1891.

These figures speak with an eloquence that is all their own, and requires none of the arts of oratory to give effect to, although the speech from which the following is an extract cannot fall

to have increased the interest in a subject which Col. Prior treated in so masterly a manner:

"British Columbia is a Province possessed of boundless and varied resources, resources so great, that members from the Province are almost afraid to tell the truth for fear of being looked upon as grossly exaggerating the facts. Let the Government grant Railway subsidies where they are really needed, let them erect public buildings where needed, let them spend money on public works where they are needed, let them protect our manufacturers, farmers and artisans, and within the next few years we will see British Columbia such a hive of industry and populated by such a happy, prosperous and contented people as to have not their equal on the continent."

The members for Victoria and the other sections of the Province who have so well presented its claims ought to be treated with more liberality than the Government has yet deigned to extend to them. It is to the advantage of the entire Dominion that the resources of this Province be developed and its interests built up and encouraged. We have, in some sense, shown what we are, and only want the means and the opportunity to demonstrate what we can do.

VANCOUVER'S CUSTOM HOUSE.

It must be said that we sympathize with the demands which the port of Vancouver is making for better customs accommodation. It is idle to suppose that the export and import business of a growing city like Vancouver can be "cribbed, cabined and confined" within their present limits. They are entirely too small, and if Collector Bowell is to be expected to do his duty well—he does it faithfully enough—he must have much better facilities. How, it may be asked, can it be possible for that official and his assistants to have everything in apple-pie order or do their work properly when they have no room in which to do it? The idea that they can do so is preposterous, and the Department and the Minister of Public Works should at once set matters under way, so that the Terminal City may have adequate offices, and at the same time a building worthy of the city. Victoria is by no means as well supplied in this respect as she might be; but if that be her condition, how much more deserving is that of the sister city which is but entering upon a career of extension and prosperity whose limit it is impossible to discover!

A FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS.

There has recently been formed at San Francisco what is known as a "Federation of Employers," which is regarded by parties of the other part as a throwing down of the gauntlet to labor. However, the "Board of Manufacturers and Employers" distinctly disclaim any design to injure or oppress their employes, and declare that they will not initiate any trouble of any kind. They say, as do the trades unions, that if any trouble comes, it will have to be started by the other side. There is no reason why organization on each side should not be beneficial to all concerned. If it be good for the employes, it should be equally good for the employers, and it may tend to regulate competition and keep it within due limits. If it accomplish this, much will be gained, for undue and un-

reasonable competition benefits nobody, not even the consumer. There is, naturally and inevitably, an antagonism between capital and labor, between employer and employee, but it need be only that antagonism which exists between the man who has something to sell and the man who wants to buy.

Labor is the stock in trade of the workman which his employer desires to purchase. The employee wants to sell it as dearly as possible, the employer wants to buy it as cheaply as possible; and that is all there is at the bottom of the much-discussed conflict between capital and labor. This condition of things affords no excuse for the bitter scenes which have often occurred when labor and capital have been arrayed against each other. It is impossible to conceive of any question that can arise or be built up from such a foundation that might not be settled by mutual concessions and compromise, or, as a last resort, by arbitration. The trouble has been that each side, when it has secured a temporary advantage, has been intoxicated with power and carried away by the idea of its own importance.

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

The Agricultural Exhibition which is to open at the grounds near the Victoria Driving Park on the 29th of this month, and to continue the four succeeding days, ought to be a very great success. The prize list is a liberal one, and the different sections comprised in it cover almost everything which it can be imagined are capable of being shown here. Exhibition week is going to be a great one, and intending exhibitors as well as visitors should make their arrangements for this the biggest thing of the kind that the Province has seen.

THE CROFTERS.

In the opinion of Michael Davitt, the land selected in the San Juan Valley for the Crofter settlement is not fitted for the colony which is about to be established there under the joint auspices of the Imperial and British Columbia Governments. It is, he says, a splendid place for the sportsman and gentleman. The rivers abound with fish, and the woods are full of game; but the land is "very heavily timbered, and these Crofters will require support from the government for three or four years while the land is being cleared." Mr. Davitt is manifestly under the impression that the San Juan settlers are to be agriculturists, as are the Crofter Colonists in the Canadian Northwest. These settlements are to be primarily fishing settlements, and there is every reason to anticipate that the commercial syndicate, whose Commissioners are now in British Columbia, will, in conjunction with the Provincial Government, furnish the first batches of Crofters sufficient work in connection with the fisheries on that part of the coast to maintain them in comfort while the settlements are being gradually made ready for the larger contingents to follow from the Old Country. The Commissioners are understood to be in the San Juan and after they have seen how the land lies, will be better able to answer Mr. Davitt and to indicate a possible scheme. Such is their object.