

BRITISH PATERNALISM.

But the Canadian sentiment of western Canada has been from the first of a decidedly British flavour. And this is not surprising.

The Hudson's Bay Company, whatever may be said of it as a governing body, for a century and a half, since it carried its trade into the interior of North America, has been a steadfast British influence. At every fort the Indian was taught to reverence the British ensign, with the cabalistic H.B.C. upon it. The Indian of the far west gloried in his great silver medal with King George's head upon it, and spoke of the Britisher as a "Kinge hautshman," *i.e.*, a King George man. The officers and men of the Hudson's Bay Company were chiefly British. They for many years traded exclusively with British goods brought in by way of Hudson Bay, and many of the Chief Factors and Traders and other officers retired to Britain to spend their last days.

When the writer went to Manitoba in 1871, the post office in Winnipeg was still Fort Garry. There was no bank except the Hudson's Bay Company. Accounts were still kept in sterling pounds, shillings and pence, and the writer remembers well Lord Strathcona, then Donald A. Smith, in heading a subscription, saying "Always put it in pounds; you know it does not look so big as in dollars." Hudson's Bay blankets, *i.e.*, pound and even shilling notes, were still in circulation. Everything was British, except a troublesome little knot of Americans in Winnipeg, and even they, by obverse, emphasized everything British as good.

The tradition and recollection of the superior and reliable men of the Company still live. Winnipeg has to-day more real British sentiment than the good City of Toronto.

This British aroma of western Canadianism was strengthened by the great interest taken in the west by British explorers, hunters, and writers. Franklin, Back, Richardson, Thomas Simpson, Lefroy, Palliser, Hector, Milton, Cheadle, Butler, Southesk and many others were filled with the glamour of the vast prairies and kept us in touch with the Mother Country.

One author—Ballantyne—by his books of travel, so universally read, has made fur-hunting, trapping and sledging known to all British boys and created a vision for them of that British land from Fort Garry to ice-bound Ungava.

British capitalists for the last generation have paid great attention to western Canada, and have bound the west with golden chains to the motherland.

But perhaps more than any other British influence, apart from the large influx of British settlers, has been the paternal care shown to western Canada by the splendid men who have filled the office of Gov-