

immediately useful as indicating the comparative desirability, as risks, of the classes in question. They will relieve some risks of the doubts which now attend them, and, on the other hand will confirm and deepen doubts and prejudice now entertained concerning other classes. The chief object of the investigation is to supply to the companies authentic statistics, with all the facts bearing upon their scope and reliability, to be used for what they may be worth in coming to correct decisions upon individual applications for life insurance." The actuaries who are members of the above Society and associated with life assurance companies, are invited to supply the necessary facts from their records. The work will be conducted on a voluntary basis, no contributor will be paid, and the expenses of stationery and clerical labour, which will probably amount to \$25,000 to \$30,000, will be assessed upon the companies proportionately to their business between 1870 and 1899. So far as this continent is concerned the investigation will be unique, and the results can hardly fail to be useful and profitable to the life companies, who in consideration of the service the enquiry will be to their business, are expected to give every assistance in making the investigation thorough and accurate.

**Mr. Chamberlain  
on Colonial help  
and Sympathy.**

At the Dominion Day dinner Mr. Chamberlain made an inspiring speech on "The Dominion of Canada." Several

passages are worthy of perpetual remembrance.

"It is not for me to repeat to you Canadians the history—a history to which the experience of the world can hardly show a parallel—of the development of your great country. In the course of a period which amounts only to the span of an average life you have established all the institutions of civilized and orderly government. You have created vast industries, employing a great population; you have transformed a trackless waste into one of the granaries of the world; you have opened up sources of incalculable mineral wealth; you have created new centres of intellectual energy; and you have reared a population, a people, strenuous, educated, law-abiding, God-fearing, the foundation, the real and truest foundation of a people. The record of internal progress of Canada is one of almost unbroken evenness; and when we look back upon it we do not wonder at—we are able to justify—the confidence with which every Canadian is born in the destinies of the magnificent land which is his appointed heritage.

Mr. Chamberlain expressed his preference for the verdict of the Colonies on the war to what he described as the "uninstructed prejudice or envy of foreign nations, who greedily swallow every lie that is foisted upon them by enemies abroad or traitors at home. We are grateful for the support and sympa-

thy of Canada. So long as England has her relations, her household around her, she is not alone." His speech closed with the following eloquent and significant words

"Upon us—upon this time-worn country of ours—there still falls the heaviest burden of Empire, and our people are not unworthy. They are not less willing to bear this burden and to make the necessary sacrifices to maintain the Empire than were their ancestors to gain it. But if the time should come and the sceptre of dominion should be too heavy for our hands, then we look to you, the young nations, the heirs of the future—those to whom it is given to carry on to distant ages the glory of the British flag and the pride of the British dominion—we look to you to appreciate our position, to approve our policy, to give us your help, your assistance to enable us to meet the taunts of our enemies with the cheers of our children."

**BRITISH COLUMBIA MINES 1900.**

The annual report of the British Columbia Minister of Mines for 1900 which has been recently issued, gives an encouraging account of the mining production last year as compared with 1899 and preceding periods. The report is embellished by a number of illustrations depicting the locations of a number of mines, mining camps, towns, bridges, stamp mills and power-houses, all of which are well executed, and are enough to attract visitors to scenes so picturesque as those which characterize the mining districts of British Columbia, rivalling as they do some famous tourist resorts. That feature, however, is only a side issue.

The present market value of most mining stocks is much lower than some time ago. The evidence however, presented in the report of the Minister of Mines for British Columbia, conclusively proves that the mineral resources of the Province justify sanguine anticipations of the yield continuing to develop to such an extent as to prove profitable to those enterprises that were entered upon judiciously, operated under expert, scientific management, and supported by adequate capital. The history of mining shows low quickly the possibilities of large profit it has latent are developed into certainties in the minds of sanguine prospectors, and over-sanguine investors, whose feverish imaginations overleap and ignore the delays and contingencies attendant upon the early stages of such enterprises, the very best of which in British Columbia require large expenditures over tedious operations, and prolonged labour before the products of a mine are marketable.

The Minister of Mines says:—

"If the investing public—the real lenders of money to the prospects—would exercise ordinary business caution, and see to it that the money for the stock they buy is used as it should be—on work,