

a century and a quarter ago, the British Flag raised on the Citadel of Quebec floated as a signal of mourning for the inhabitants of Canada. Since then, our fathers have defended it with devotion on the field of battle, and to-day their descendants carry it with honour on their national holidays. What it has been to Canada, we wish that it may be to Ireland; a guarantee of peace, of prosperity and of liberty. The country has observed with satisfaction that, since their journey to Europe last summer, the right hon. the Prime Minister and some of his colleagues have succeeded in attracting in a greater degree the public attention of the United Kingdom towards Canada, and in giving a more exact idea of its natural riches, and of the undeniable advantages which it offers to emigrants applying themselves to the noble work of agriculture. It was followed by the visit to our vast and fertile regions in the North-West of a delegation of the Royal Commission, charged to enquire into the causes of the depression of agriculture, and also from several competent agriculturists, who all left with a very favourable impression of our country. The Government, therefore, have reason to expect this year an increase in the number of emigrants belonging to the agricultural class, and they propose to take measures in consequence. We have not at this moment the same advantages to offer to other classes, to mechanics for example, that class being already overcrowded here in most kinds of industry. Parliament will, no doubt, second willingly the efforts of the Government to encourage, without too much expense, the emigrants of the first class to settle themselves permanently in Canada, to identify themselves with the country, and to work in common with us to make an inheritance worthy to be the pride, and to deserve the attachment, of their children. In the past, numerous causes have contributed to win away from our country the current of European emigration, and to increase the tide of emigration of our own population; but the principal ones appear to me to be the following: first, the want of a diversity of careers open to the fitness and to the tastes both of foreigners and of Canadians themselves; then, the want of knowledge of our natural resources on the part of a great number; moreover, the

acrimonious contests which have agitated the country under the legislative union of the two Canadas; deplorable contests, which hindered at the same time the Canadians of different origins from fraternising together, and considering themselves as fellow-countrymen, and retarded the march of the state on the way of progress and national greatness; in short an exaggerated infatuation for the United States and their institutions. Thank God, these causes of our past difficulties are disappearing rapidly. Thanks to the National Policy, lately extolled by the Opposition, and since then repudiated by them, but boldly put into operation by the present Government, native industry is tending to take more diversified channels, agriculture to raise its head, commerce to develop itself, and a multiplicity of pursuits to increase in proportion. The fertility of the soil of Canada is better known; her climate so salubrious is less dreaded by reason of our winters; her noble and free institutions are better appreciated; the progress which she has made, and continues to make, is more observed; in a word, her future appears thrown into a more brilliant light. Fortunately, also, the establishment of the federal system, while favouring to a greater extent a spirit of enterprise and invention, and consequently material progress under various forms, has by the decentralisation of power, or the division of legislative and administrative labour among several political bodies, independent of each other in the sphere of their respective functions, removed at once the cause of much coldness of feeling, and the conflict of rival or opposition interests. Whence proceeds the gradual extinction of prejudices and a tendency towards mutual charity, because every day people learn to know and to esteem each other better. There are persons who deny the influence of political and legislative systems upon the character of nations; but this influence, nevertheless, does exist, and every attentive observer has remarked their influence in almost every country. Regarding, in this point of view, which appears to me a practical and a logical one, the legislation adopted last Session, one is compelled to recognise that it has had the effect of developing a wholesome public spirit in all the Confederated Provinces, by furnish-