

tariff. Without therefore expressing any opinion here concerning the merits of these policies, it will be evident that Canada has had a very varied and useful experience.

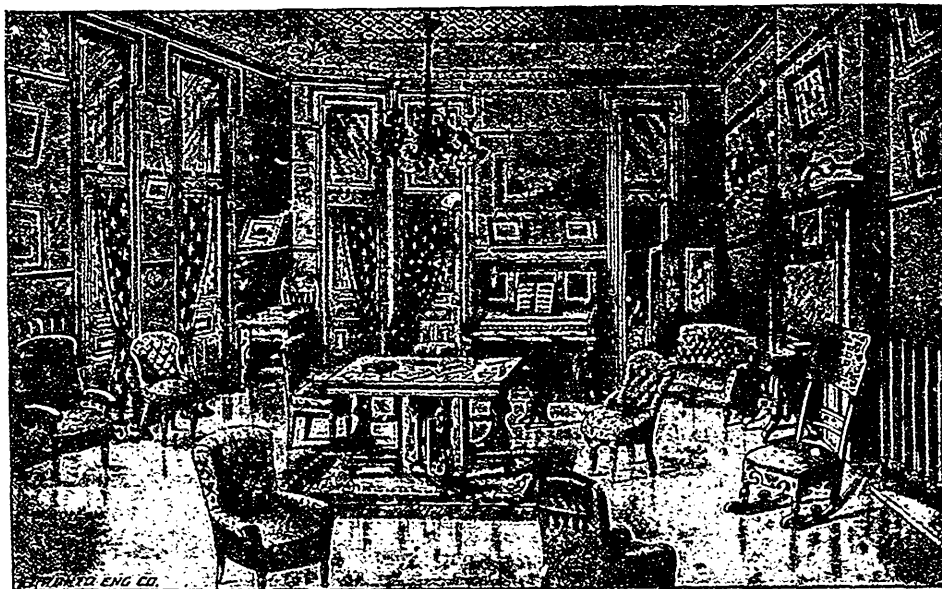
In one important respect the Dominion requires to be defended by its patriotic citizens and friends. The climate of Canada is greatly maligned. For over a century it has been in the interests of the French to misrepresent the value of the country they had lost, and this feeling, whether put into active operation or not, was shown in the exclamation of King Louis that "after all it was only a few square miles of snow." Similarly it has been in the interest of United States' pride to minimize the importance of Canada and in the interest of the U. S. pocket and increased population, to depreciate its climate and resources. For many years these causes told greatly against us, but time has been on the side of right and truth, and the much maligned Canadian climate is now becoming popular and respected.

Its healthful qualities are proved by the returns of the military stations, the census, the death rate, the statistics of disease, the appearance of the people, and the experience of an ever increasing number of visitors. The statements now made about cold in Manitoba were formerly applied to Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces. It was at

one time said that the latter could never produce fruit, raise cattle, or grow wheat. Today the fruits of Canada are as famous as its grain and cattle, while the harvests of the Prairie Province are celebrated all over the world. The effect of cold upon the human system cannot be ascertained by a thermometer. The dryness or humidity of the atmosphere decides its comfort or discomfort, healthfulness or the reverse. So the climate of Canada has to be judged not by comparison with Southern heat, English dampness, or Siberian cold, but by practical and personal test. In this it is always victorious.

Such is the brief sketch for which I am asked, and upon a subject which it is always pleasant to write of. Events of to-day are making good the aspirations of the past. Canada, through its magnificent geographical position, is now becoming the pivot upon which turn the destinies of the British Empire; by its enterprise it has become the link of union in commerce, transportation, and electric connection between Britain in the West and Britain in the East; and by its loyalty to the British crown and connection, has ensured its own safety against American oppression, and planted itself firmly upon this North American continent as an important factor in the history and progress of the world.

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