

333. This is an amount equal to about half what is paid to the Governor-General of all Canada, who rules over half a continent and six million people, or half the amount paid the President of the United States. The governors and other officials in the islands are equally well rewarded.

This will be apparent if we consider them in the aggregate. They have a united area of about 14,000 square miles, or about one-half the size of the Province of New Brunswick, with a total population of about 1,500,000, yet this small area, and somewhat small population, pays its governors the sum of \$105,000, or more than twice the amount paid to the Governor-General of Canada! This does not include British Honduras or British Guiana. To this must be added the sums necessary to defray the salaries of other government officials, all of which are out of proportion to the duties performed, or the demands of circumstances. It is, of course, theoretically true that the expenses of administering crown colonies are in a measure met by the Imperial Government, but it is said these islands practically pay their own expenses. If these statements be correct, these colonies, on the basis of Canadian governors' salaries, could afford the expense of a federal government and still be in pocket on the transaction.

Not the least among the possible advantages resulting from such a union would be the increased prosperity resulting from the introduction of outside capital inspired by the establishing of a strong and progressive government. Large investments would undoubtedly be made in plantations and other resources, if there were sufficient guarantee of success. The case of Cuba is an illustration of this fact. Perhaps, too, we might venture to suggest the possibility of increasing the federal area for the same rea-

sons. A high state of prosperity in the federated British colonies would present a strong attraction to other colonies less favoured, that they might, by joining, also have their conditions improved.

Then, too, if the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty is abrogated mutually, or disregarded by the United States, either one or the other of which is almost sure to take place, it would seem that England would have a moral right to the Mosquito Coast territory, which she, by that treaty, and for its sake, relinquished. This itself would in time be a valuable acquisition to the proposed federation.

Last, but not least, Canada herself would likely be largely benefited by such an arrangement between our tropical American fellow citizens. Canada has long sought a trade preference in natural products with the British West Indies, but without success. The chances for this would be greatly increased under the conditions proposed. And if Canada and the West Indies are ever to enter into a political union, such a union must first take place among the islands themselves.

It will be observed that these unfederated American colonies fall into natural groups, and are now for the most part administered in groups which would answer for provinces. Six or seven provinces could thus be constituted as follows: The Bahamas, the Windward Islands, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad (with Tobago), British Guiana and British Honduras. British Guiana might with advantage, since it is so greatly in excess of all the others, be divided into two, or even three parts, as population increased and the interior became developed and occupied.

It would, perhaps, be interesting here to speak in detail of these various colonies, but the scope of this article will not permit. A few paragraphs, however, might be de-