

CANADIAN UNITY.

All civilization, as has been said of legislation, must be a compromise. A compromise is not necessarily a disgraceful thing. Mind and body are of different composition, different qualities, different purposes, and yet in the one human being they are mysteriously inter-related and blended so that they act together, sympathize with one another, rejoice in the same good fortune or lament and suffer in the same misfortunes. So a country made up of different elements, composed of different local sections, even having different interests, can be skillfully bound together to make a substantial working unity.

And so, while our key-note of progress in Canada is unity, yet, as these parallels show, this does not require an absolute uniformity. A forced unity might destroy effort and check progress.

Unity with diversity is surely the true watchword for Canada.

(a) *Economic Conditions*.—Kipling may say "O, East is east, and west is west", but if Canada is to be a nationality, full-pulsed and dominant, there must be some "juste milieu," some fair average of business community—of trade interest—between east and west. We cannot all live by shop and factory; we cannot all live as town or city middlemen or capitalists; we cannot all live from the school, the university, the church; nor can we all live from the farm or ranch, which is the hope of western Canada.

But it is the duty of statesmen to help us all live by a comprehensive east-west or west-east policy, growing out of consideration of one interest for the other.

Time was when Manitoba was dissatisfied and rebellious toward the Dominion. "Manitoba First!" was the cry. "Appeal to the foot of the throne!" "Strike for an independent West!" These were heard in the western air.

But wisdom sent forth her voice, and thoughtful, patriotic men of the west said "No! The east will deal justly with us. Our motto is 'An United Canada.'" This was the answer of the wise.

Patriotism, persistence and patience won the day, and we have to-day a satisfied and hopeful western Canada. Unity of spirit grows from equality of opportunity. Class privilege and the tyranny of capital have had their day. Character and achievement should be the true basis of respect between man and man, and between province and province. "Sense and worth" must be the binding tie of east and west.

(b) *Political differences*.—Canadian unity, however, is quite compatible with political difference. Party government seems the best expedient yet devised for the combination of a strong executive with a critical opposition, to correct mistakes and suggest alternative lines