

know what material prosperity means in a life-giving sense to the whole community, you must go to American and Colonial States, and see how generally distributed wealth improves the conditions of social harmony and human co-operation. Then will you best understand how great philanthropists, as well as eminent statesmen, have been those men who have striven by political reforms in Great Britain to equalize, and to improve in equalizing, the political status of the people, or by economic legislation to distribute more equably the blessings of material prosperity.

I think I have now incidentally answered most of the questions that would naturally have occurred to the majority of my audience, unless perhaps on one or two points of political importance, with regard, however, to which it might not be in place for me, considering my official relations, to express an opinion. But on the face of such facts as I have adduced, disquisitions on Government and politics seem to dwindle in importance. As I have said, progress and material prosperity loom up first into view, and from these Government and politics take much of their shape and direction. I have presumed to-night that you did not desire from me a constitutional dissertation. The form of the Government of the Dominion was written upon our statute-book in the Act of 1867, and appears to be more intelligently understood by Englishmen than are the circumstances of the country which was thereby legislated upon. What you desire to know is how the government machine works, and my answer is that the results appear in the marvellous development of the Dominion since the confederation in 1867. You are probably aware that the confederation of the British provinces was hastened by the alarming and significant hints from time to time thrown out by British statesmen. It was supposed to be, and in effect it actually was, the theory of the school of politicians which took its name from Manchester, that colonies were but a burden and useless expense to Great Britain; and Mr. Goldwin Smith was then a prominent advocate of views which possibly at this moment he would not be prepared to