

National Exhibition, Toronto. A view from the top of the New Grand Stand, showing the new Agricultural Building, which replaces the old Crystal Palace destroyed by fire some months ago.

### The East and the West

**T**HE East and the West are continually surprising each other with compliments and the reverse. The men from the East go out and look over the West and exclaim, "Wonderful progress! I had no idea you were doing so well." The Westerner comes East and says, "My, I thought all the progress was in the West, and here I find you are growing almost as fast as we are." These are the compliments, and it is well that such are paid. Both sections must progress together. If even one province of the nine were to lag behind in material, moral or political development, it would be bad for the other eight. They are all parts, though perhaps unequal parts, of a whole.

Compliments, however, are not the only things exchanged. Mr. Eastern Banker comes out and says to the West: "You are going too fast; your land values are too high; you are carrying too many mortgages; you are overworking your limited capital. You had better take a reef in your main-sail." Mr. Western Boomer replies: "Get out, you old be-whiskered pessimist! You remind me of the Hon. Edward Blake who declared that the C.P.R. would never pay for the grease required for its engine-wheels. You had much better invest your funds here than on the Toronto, Montreal and New York stock markets."

Thus the merry exchange goes on; it will probably continue for some time. The monied interests of the East have passed through many booms and have learned severe lessons. They point out that Winnipeg has enough surveyed city lots to accommodate a million people; that land on the front street of Edmonton is selling at higher prices than land on the busiest streets of Montreal and Toronto; that town lots in Vancouver which will not be occupied for years are selling at twenty-five dollars a foot. These monied interests see a readjustment coming as it has come a dozen times in Eastern Canada and in various United States districts. The banker and financier has history on his side. On

the other hand the Westerner is possessed by an optimism which is uninfluenced by history and records. The soil is plentiful and productive; trade is increasing by leaps and bounds; population is growing so fast that the village of yesterday is the town of to-day, and the city of to-morrow. He points to thousands of men who have gone into the West penniless and are now independently wealthy. The Last West is the Best West and will be the Greatest West.

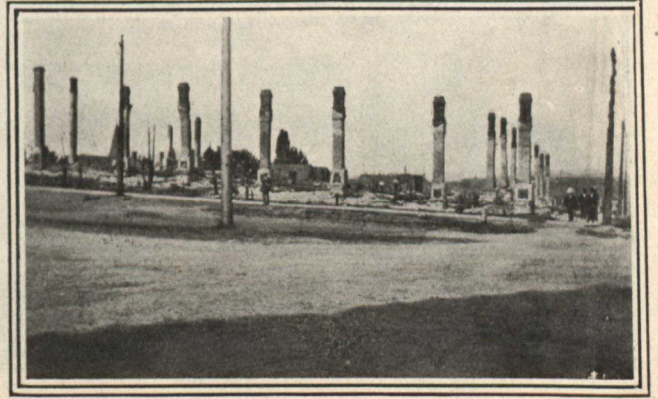
Perhaps both are right and certainly they make a great team—Conservatism and Progressiveness. Yet the East must not be too Conservative and the West must not be too Progressive. There is a happy medium in all these matters and the continued exchange of frank opinion will aid the whole country in deciding just how fast it ought to go and just where it is necessary to apply the brakes of prudence.

### The Fire at Victoria, B.C.

**O**N Tuesday, July 23rd, the city of Victoria was visited by a destructive conflagration. The flames were first seen in a shed by a blacksmith's shop at 2.30 in the afternoon and for nearly five hours the fire raged, jumping from house to house, and at times breaking out more than a block away from where the fire-fighting forces were at work. Over one hundred dwellings were destroyed and the property loss is valued at close on to \$200,000. The fire started at the corner of Herald and Store Streets and was finally brought under control by pulling down a couple of houses on Pioneer Street. A very strong wind, blowing off the harbour, fanned the flames and carried burning shingles long distances. At one time the fire was burning in three distinct districts and it looked as though a large part of the city must be destroyed. The fall of the wind as evening approached saved the situation. The photographs, taken the morning after the fire, tell the story better than words.



The first block to be destroyed, Victoria.



All that was left of one whole block, Victoria.