

and end of the period, has been able to take in national progress and prosperity. It has not been my purpose to describe the spiritual and moral progress which the Dominion may have made within that time, and in any case such progress is not easily susceptible of statistical demonstration; but inasmuch as the national virtues of thrift, of patience, of perseverance, of enterprising courage in the face of obstacles and difficulties and of optimistic faith in the future represent spiritual and moral forces, it cannot be doubted that progress in this direction too has been great and real. The closing years of the period under review found the Dominion bearing no unworthy share in the greatest war of history and for the greatest of all causes. Deep as have been the domestic sorrows which the war has entailed, the struggle has called forth the noblest qualities of heroism and self sacrifice, which will make Canadian history lustrous with a glory that cannot fade. Happily the war has ended in the complete triumph of the cause of justice and freedom, and Canada with the rest of the British Empire and the Allied Nations is now considering plans of reconstruction and reform. If the progress of the past fifty years has been so splendid, is there not abundant reason for anticipating still greater triumphs in the next fifty years? The path of progress in Canada is as open as it was fifty years ago; the natural wealth of the great Dominion has as yet been scarcely more than skimmed. In population, in production, in manufactures, in trade and in the financial and commercial developments dependent thereupon, Canada should certainly equal if not exceed the brilliant record of the past half century.

IV.—PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANADA.

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES.

General Formation.—On the eastern coast of the North American continent the Appalachian range of mountains gives shape to the eastern coast of the United States and, extending into Canada, forms the Gaspé peninsula and the Maritime Provinces. Around Hudson bay is a V-shaped plateau constituting the Laurentian highland and extending from Labrador down to the St. Lawrence river and thence northwestward to the Arctic ocean. In the west are the Cordillera ranges of the Pacific coast, extending into British Columbia and the Yukon territory. They occupy a large area in Canada, and comprise several parallel ranges. In British Columbia they are over 400 miles in width, and consist of the coast range along the coast; the Rocky mountains, properly so called, and, between them, the Selkirk, Gold, Cariboo, Cassiar and other ranges. To the north of British Columbia lies the Yukon territory, including a great mountain area drained by the Yukon river and the Klondike valley, famous for its gold. West of the Canadian Yukon lies the United States territory of Alaska. Canada may further be conveniently divided into five sections: (1) the peninsula which in Canada includes Gaspé and the three Maritime Provinces; (2) the lowlands of southern