

Returning by stage he "made the run home" by the Canadian shore in the space of five days, having travelled almost night and day, and suffered intensely from the severity of the weather. Nor is the Grand Trunk Railway less important in a political point of view. Had the Americans been allowed to bring their railroads to the frontier of Canada without any efficient check to the extension of their commerce, during the winter season, the commercial relations thus formed would not have been severed with the return of spring, and, separated in interests and in sympathies, the union of the Provinces would have lost one great element of its strength.

If we examine the Trade and Navigations Returns, we shall find that as soon as the United States Railways were completed to the Canadian Frontier, the course of trade was immediately drawn in that direction, and but for the timely completion of the Grand Trunk Railway the trade of Montreal and the St. Lawrence would have dwindled into insignificance. It was all very well while the Americans depended on the Erié Canal, but so soon as they had established a means of communication at all seasons of the year, the superiority of our summer route would have availed us little.

It is no part of our business to discuss the management of the Grand Trunk Railway, but we may be allowed to remark that, if Canada has risked a large sum of money, for which she has received such manifest advantages, surely she has much less reason to complain than the unfortunate stockholders who have invested their money in an enterprise which is yet so much below par, and which to many, has yielded no return. For ourselves, we have constantly adhered to the opinion so often expressed in this Magazine, that the Grand Trunk Railway will ultimately be the best Stock in the country, and that its misfortune consists in its having been built to make the country, rather than to serve it.

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### THE CENSUS OF 1861.

The time is fast approaching when Canada must again "take stock" and balance the national Ledger; and in view of the importance of the work in a statistical as well as in a commercial point of view, it cannot be out of place even at this early day, to bring the subject under review, to point out some of the defects of the last census, and to offer a few suggestions which may be of service in preparing for that of 1861.

The value of national statistics, it appears to us, consists more in obtaining a correct account of a country's comparative growth in the various departments of Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures, and in enabling us to discover the increase of wealth, as compared with population, than in the simple fact of an increase of population, unaccompanied by any satisfactory assurance of a greater increase in national wealth and social comfort.

If this view is correct, the last census was, in many important particu-