

are bound in justice to pay theirs also. Now if we are bound to pay the debts, should we hesitate to take the Canal and put it into such a state of repair, so as to produce a return for the expenditure incurred. We, by taking it into our own hands, would be subjecting ourselves only to the payment of six or seven thousand per annum, interest, beyond what we now pay, and have we nothing to pay it with? Have we not the tolls? Why, the tolls of last season amounted to £3,000, and the Canal was only opened part of the season. But it is impossible to estimate what the tolls will be, by what they are at present. The moment you put it into a state to command public confidence, it will pay. The Company's means are exhausted, and it cannot be put into the state required, unless we assume the whole work. We ought to put it into a complete state of repair—we are more interested in finishing the work than the Company are. Look at the advantages we may reasonably expect to derive from it, in drawing forth the resources of the western part of the province. I do not know that the expectation of the hon. member for Oxford, (Dr. Duncombe) will be realized, as to the future population of the province being 30 millions, but it is certain this Canal has been the means of increasing the population, and will continue to do so. I do not admire that kind of economy, which would prohibit all public improvements, till we have the money actually in our pockets. We have the means of borrowing money, we have the example of other countries for doing so, and let us not hesitate therefore, in calling forth the resources of our country. Every penny of our debt has been laid out in improvements, and the country would in time reap the benefit. I will put it to the hon. and learned member from Lennox and Addington, whether he feels himself justified in opposing public improvements because a particular place he refers to, will not be directly benefitted. This is no argument—in my opinion we ought not to take that into consideration, when the general interests of the province are concerned. Is it no benefit, I would ask, to encourage trade and bring out the resources of the country? one particular part of the country will benefit equally with the rest, though not immediately. My own opinion is, the work ought never to have been left to a private Company; however, we have now embarked in it and I hope we will carry it through triumphantly. The hon. and learned member for Lennox and Addington, seems to have a horror of making it a public work, and fears that the Executive Government would have an overwhelming power: I should like to ask, how is it likely to add to their power? they can derive no additional interest or possess any undue influence that he seems so much to dread. I am against great works of this kind being in the hands of a private Company, though I believe Mr. Yates has done very much to advance the interest of the Welland Canal. Will, the hon. and learned member, (Mr. Bidwell,) resist the calculations made, as to the importance of this work to the province; and does not he see it is thought necessary to have a rail road close by it. I am quite willing to take upon myself, all the responsibility that may attach to my vote upon this question; the hon. and learned member, (Mr. Bidwell,) says he always votes for public improvements, if extravagance is not attached to them. Well then, all our public improvements are under censure, as I have never had the honour of voting side by side with that hon. and learned member upon any public measure of improvement. As to Lower Canada assisting us, I think they ought. Whatever improvements we make in such matters as this under discussion, must improve their interests, and I do think the Legislature of that colony, looking at their true interests, if applied to, would assist. My own opinion is, it is wise in us to take the Canal into our

own hands, to increase under our own management, the years, the Mr. M. of this I which I culties a us. In the task hon. gen perfectly away in ces of t always p hand, th nounced as enem matter views w and Add have alw hon. and actuated course o Legislat granting fidence t remainder should n admitting the Rece Legislat the work ty to the enterpris we are b faith, cos ly given ined; an man as N tance to ity and t recollect lose if w or shall both prin Last year the worst of uninte from the complete the Canal they were