

For instance, they have paid out over three millions in a distribution to the various municipalities, which these have employed in making roads, building bridges, town halls, school houses, making harbors, constructing water-works, and for many other useful purposes, all over the country. Consider what a vast sum this is—three millions—thirty hundred thousand dollars—how much work it must have given, and how many valuable improvements.

This is little compared to the manner in which they have aided railways. Government has given these direct assistance to the amount of nearly three millions of dollars. And notice the additional result. Municipalities have given seven millions in bonuses, and the total sums spent on these roads has been about twenty-three millions. Think of what an amount of work and improvement this shows. They have aided nearly thirty different lines, having nearly fourteen hundred miles built and three hundred to finish yet. And if you look at any map of Ontario, you will see that it is so crossed and counter-crossed by these lines that most parts have got a share.

Next, I want you to consider the quantity of money spent in public buildings and works, and the valuable improvements obtained for the money: all this, remember, since 1871. They have spent about two and a quarter millions in building asylums, prisons, reformatories, registry offices, agricultural colleges, Government schools, in improvements on lakes and rivers, and for many other valuable objects. We have, in consequence, now schools at which agriculture is scientifically taught to our young farmers—(an excellent work, since modern farming to be successful must be scientific). We have reformatories, where young culprits may be reclaimed, instead of, as of old, sending them to prisons to become yet worse. We have asylums where the lunatic, the blind, deaf and dumb are kept, and often cured—a great improvement on past times, which left them often necessarily uncared for, an annoyance and alarm to neighborhoods.

Government has spent also nearly half a million on the drainage of farms, lending the farmers the money at low interest. I wish that I had space here to say a few words on the value of this improvement. It is of very great importance