

THE *Chamber of Commerce Journal*, published by the London, England, Chamber of Commerce, has an article on "Home Defences," viewed from a commercial standpoint. The *Journal* points out that whilst other states have increased their armies enormously, Great Britain has done nothing to keep up with these powers. Even the navy, it is claimed, has been neglected, until it could not compete with the united forces of any two European powers. In case of a war with Russia, it is said that "our power of interference would be limited to the coast, and that the army would serve but as an auxiliary to the navy." If the navy is in the condition represented, it is certainly not upholding the tradition that the British maritime force should be superior to all comers. The *Journal* puts the matter in the light that the interests of the trading classes demand that the country should be put in a state of defence, and adds: "It is 'safe that we, who more than any other nation 'on earth, depend on others for our daily food, 'let alone our splendid commerce, should tolerate the existence of a doubt as to our power 'to defend our shores, and maintain the freedom of our communications? Is it not courting disaster to offer the immense and almost defenceless booty of British commercial centres 'to the cupidity of foreign armies." Special reference is made to the desirability of rendering the home defences secure against military occupation by a foreign power, as in such a contingency a heavy ransom would have to be paid. In this connection it is urged that, as a matter of ordinary insurance, the national defences should be placed in an efficient condition. Reference is made to the ransom of one hundred and twenty millions demanded in the case of Paris, and the question is asked: "What would the probable ransom of London amount to?"

THE public accounts for the financial year ended June 30th, 1886, a statement of which has been presented to Parliament, are looked upon by the independent press of the Dominion as anything but satisfactory. It is shown by the returns that the net debt on the 1st of July last amounted to \$223,000,000 in round figures, against \$196,000,000 at the end of the previous financial year, or an increase of \$26,751,000. This is certainly an astounding increase in our indebtedness for a single year, and will make those unacquainted with the situation open their eyes in astonishment. This addition to the debt has been brought about mainly from two causes, namely, deficits and aids to railways. The last fiscal year shows a deficit of about \$5,500,000, which, with accumulated deficits from the previous year, brings the total up to about \$8,000,000. The railway expenditure of the year was very heavy. The C.P.R., of course, came in for the lion's share, receiving \$4,750,000, in addition to \$10,000,000 in lieu of lands, or a total of \$14,750,000. The Northern and Pacific Junction received something over one million, and the balance to make up a total of \$18,000,000 went to other railways. It must be borne in mind that though the net debt on the first of July last was \$223,000,000, there is still a further debt of \$50,000,000 to be added to the total liabilities, the latter amount being

deducted from the total as an offset against assets. The total expenditure for last year was in round numbers \$30,000,000, or an increase of \$4,000,000 over the previous year, against a total revenue of \$33,000,000. Of the expenditure \$3,000,000 was in payment of claims on account of the Saskatchewan troubles. For the present financial year the revenue has shown a gain over expenditure and it is thought that should the improvement continue, by the close of the year the surplus will be sufficient to wipe out the last deficit. It is to be hoped that such a desirable result may be attained.

WHILST we in Canada are clamoring for immigrants, the *London Chamber of Commerce Journal* finds reason for congratulation in the increase of emigration from that country in 1886 and the consequent loss of a larger proportion of the surplus population. Special cause for congratulation is also noted, owing to the fact that a larger proportion of the emigrants from Britain were foreign residents of that country. Of the total emigration for last year, 94,370 were foreign residents, or an increase of 75 per cent. over the figures of the previous year in this class of immigrants. The total number of emigrants of British and Irish origin was 232,900, or a gain of 12 per cent. over 1885. The foreign element are described as mainly belonging to the lower orders, "incapable of advancement," and "slaving for a miserable pittance to the detriment of healthy labor." Another point which is regarded with special favor by the British public, but which cannot be so considered by the receiving countries, is found in the fact that a large percentage of the aggregate emigration consisted of unskilled labor. Not only does Britain send out a large number of emigrants, but she also receives a considerable number of immigrants, last year the total of the latter amounting to 80,018. These are mostly Englishmen and Scotchmen, who return to their native country. It is significant that few Irish return. For 1886 the percentage of emigration to the total population of the United Kingdom was .42. Ireland continues to contribute a much larger number, in proportion to population, than the other political divisions of the United Kingdom, as will be shown by the following figures:—Ireland, percentage of emigration to population, 1.25; Scotland, do., .64; England and Wales, .52. The United States took 65.4 per cent. of the British emigrants; Australia came next, getting 22.3 per cent., and Canada third, with 11.5 per cent., the balance of 8 per cent. being distributed to other countries. Since 1853 it is estimated that 2,557,950 Irish emigrants have taken their departure from that country, out of a total of 6,088,640 from the United Kingdom. The United States received out of this number 2,096,448 Irish, 1,629,251 English, and 295,151 Scotch, or nearly two-thirds of the total. The last feature noted and one which is of the greatest interest to the receiving countries, is the occupation of the emigrants. Of 120,678 British and Irish emigrants during 1886, whose occupations were given, 28.37 per cent. were laborers; 12.48 per cent. were agricultural laborers, gardeners, carters, etc.; 9.85 per cent. gentlemen, merchants and professional men

6.01 per cent. mechanics; 5.60 per cent. farmers and graziers; with the balance distributed in a small percentage of stated trades, etc. Domestic servants numbered 16.91 per cent., but it is noted that a larger number of the female emigrants were classified: "Occupation not stated."

No class of individuals appreciate a good joke better than the knights of the grip, and if the joke falls upon a brother drummer, so much the better. Three or four good hearted, socially disposed commercial men will frequently make things lively for the whole community of a small country town, where they happen to be lingering for a short time. The drummer possesses the faculty in a large degree of adapting himself to circumstances, and under trying occasions life will be made enjoyable, if there are a few of these gentry around to perpetrate their pranks upon each other. Thus what would often prove a weary season, waiting for a stage or train at some out-of-the-way place, is often made enjoyable by the presence of a few drummers. A joke which caused a great deal of amusement to the fraternity gathered in the city last week, was perpetrated by a fur man from Montreal, upon an unsuspecting boot and shoe trader from the same hamlet. Like all commercial men, the boot and shoe man was desirous of making the acquaintance of some of Winnipeg's fair ones, to enable him to pass away the time more pleasantly during his sojourn in the city, and the fur man, having volunteered to introduce him to some ladies, at once set to work to keep his promise. The leather vendor had procured a sample room and chamber adjoining in a block where commercial men resort, and into these apartments the fur man managed to inveigle a couple of dusky natives of the feminine persuasion, during the absence of the temporary occupant. The shoe man was somewhat astonished to find his quarters occupied upon his return, and he at once concluded it would be necessary for his future comfort to get the intruders out without their being noticed. But this he found a difficult task, for the occupants of the block, who had been informed of the joke, had left their doors open and some of them would appear about the halls each time the drummer would make an attempt to get rid of his unwelcome guests. As the time drew near at which some customers were to look at his samples, his uneasiness noticeably increased, and after watching for about an hour without an opportunity of getting rid of his visitors unobserved, he was obliged to march them out, just in time to meet an unusually large number of persons in the hallway, including the landlord and wife, who had all along been silently enjoying his discomfiture and manoeuvres to get rid of his visitors. All the explanations of the unfortunate drummer were unavailing, and to escape further persecution he packed up and left for the west on the first train, deciding to leave the Winnipeg trade until his return.

THE Manitoba Northwestern Ry., will be extended ten miles from Lagenburg at once.

CLARKE & SUTHERLAND have purchased the stock of the Winnipeg Lumber Company from the banks holding the property.