

locomotives landed, and 700 cars built to carry on the work on construction account; no less than 30 sawmills in operation at one point at one time. The enterprise that set this enormous trade in motion is not one of greater magnitude than will be the work undertaken on this side, and if our farmers and population generally do not profit, and that immediately, by the carrying on of such enterprises as these, let them succumb, for I know of no state of prosperity that can help them. I contend the benefits of Confederation, in these respects at least, will be immediate. But Hon. Members have said, "the United States will derive the benefit." If that argument holds good, why not tell the merchants of Wharf street to close their doors because foreign manufacturers reap a part of the benefit of their trade. Better, a great deal, for the opponents of this cause to advise the farmers to cultivate every inch of their farms and garner up their crops, for the day assuredly will come when they will have ample market for all they can raise.

It has been urged here, that Canada cannot retain her population, much less the immigration that comes to her shores. In this, Sir, there is considerable truth, although the Hon. and learned Member for Victoria has put the matter fairly before this House. In giving the number of passengers going from Canada to the United States, he has omitted to give you the number of those passing from the States into Canada. One reason why Canada has not retained the whole number of immigrants landed on her shores, is that they find greater attractions in the treeless prairies of the Western States, than in the heavily timbered lands of Canada. This, Sir, has ever been a serious drawback to her. But now the case is different. Having acquired the vast territories of the great North-West, she will open them to settlement, and then she will have inducements to offer such as cannot be boasted of by any other country in the world. Open these millions of acres to the settler, and you will see such a rush of immigration—not only from the older countries of Europe—but from the United States, as will astonish the world, and stand unparalleled in the history of immigration. Canada's hardy sons who have left their homes for the Western

States—allured by the advantages of prairie over wooded lands—will join in swelling the numbers, and once more plant their feet on British soil.

The difficulties of defence have been spoken of as a formidable obstacle. Sir, she never regarded them in any such light. She has no fears in that direction. She relies on the thorough good understanding that has existed between herself and the United States for so long a period, as a guarantee for the future. Their interests are so identical that they cannot afford to quarrel. The troubles between them heretofore, have been on England's account, and not Canada's, as witness the Trent affair, and the more recent Fenian invasion, which was rather a stab at England than an attack on Canada. During the recent fratricidal war in the United States, Canada had a difficult part to play in maintaining strict neutrality, yet she came out unscathed. It must be remembered, also, that Canada possesses in her canal system, a powerful lever—a guarantee for peace—vastly more potent than fortifications. The great bulk of the produce of the Western States finds its way to the ocean through Canadian channels, which could be closed at any moment.

As to that "other issue," (I will not use the word that has been so freely used outside) I have no fears for Canada or this Colony either. It used to be fashionable here, in early days, to associate the name of Canada with rebellion. It was the result of prejudice and ignorance, and was a great mistake.

I recently read, Sir, an account of a meeting held in one of our principal Canadian cities, on the occasion of a Sabbath school convention. An American gentleman was engaged in addressing the House, filled to its utmost capacity. In the course of his remarks, having occasion to refer to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, he added:—"American though I am, I can with all my heart say, 'God bless the Queen.'" Immediately, Sir, without any preconcerted action, the entire audience of men, women and children rose to their feet and sang the National Anthem. That gentleman said, that such a spontaneous, hearty and unanimous outburst of loyalty was probably never heard before.

Such, Sir, is the kind of loyalty we are taught in Canada, such is the kind that is