

to inflame these dangerous passions. A band of lawless men speculated upon this state of things and invaded our territory, hoping that in the excitement of passion one-half our people would flock to their standard. The indignant uprising of a thousand Englishmen, ready to defend their country and their flag,—the united phalanx of the French *Métis* of all the Parishes, avowing a determination to rally to the Crown, was the response these marauders received. We gave proof to the invaders and to the world, that, differ as we might among ourselves on matters of minor moment, our hearts were tight, and our hands ready, when duty called us to the defence of our common country.

A year ago it took 30 days to receive from Ottawa a reply to a Telegraphic Message; now as many hours suffice.

A year ago the nearest communication with the outside world was by way of St. Cloud. A dreary journey of 400 miles separated Fort Garry from the terminus of the Railway.

In one year the Iron road has bridged that distance by half, and we are now within 200 miles of the North Pacific Crossing at Morehead, in the neighbourhood of Georgetown.

A little over a year ago the Military Expedition, sent from Collingwood by the Lakes, after prodigies of toil and endurance, succeeded in reaching Fort Garry by the circuitous route of the Winnipeg River, after a march of three months. This year, so much is the line improved, that 200 men, at a season when snow and frost had increased enormously the hardships of the route, reached Fort Garry in perfect health, and without an accident, in 20 days from the day they left Thunder Bay.

A year ago, the question of a Railway to the Pacific was a thing of theory. Its practicability was based upon conjecture. The whole country between this and the western frontier of Ontario was unknown. During the past season the intervening space has been divided into sections. An efficient surveying party has been despatched into each, while between Fort Garry and the West a party has been organized to reconnoitre the ground and pursue their explorations, till they shall meet, in the gorges of the Rocky Mountains, other parties sent out from the Pacific Coast. By the time Parliament shall have met, the Government of the Dominion will be in a position to judge of the whole line of country intervening between the Ottawa and the borders of the Pacific Ocean.

May we not fairly say, then, that this Province has made great strides during the year that is just closing?

Out of the chaos in which the arrival of the Lieutenant-Governor found us, order and peace have been evoked. The excitements of times of trouble have passed away. A police has been organized—an enumeration of the inhabitants made—the county has been parcelled off into electoral divisions—elections have been held—an Assembly returned and convened, a responsible Ministry constituted; a code of laws enacted; Courts of Justice organized, and put in operation; justice administered; criminals tried, convicted, and sentenced; the Indian title to half a Continent released; the public domain of the Province surveyed, laid off in blocks, and made ready for immigration; lines of communication with Thunder Bay by the Lakes, and with Duluth and St. Paul by the United States, improved; Steamships for communicating with the Interior in course of construction, and railway explorations across the Continent, almost complete; Mail routes and Post Offices established all over the Province; Custom Houses instituted and duties collected; Prisons and Penitentiaries built; and, last of all, a Telegraph Line established, making us part and parcel of the living world. We may well ask whether the crowding of all these events into the compass of a single year, is not a theme upon which we may congratulate ourselves and the Dominion to which we belong. We challenge the world to produce an instance where such an amount of work in any country, or about any country, has crowded the annals of a single year. Some of this work has been done outside of the authorities of the Dominion, but it is fair to say even of what has been so done, that much of it is due to the energy with which the Dominion authorities and the Local authorities have applied themselves to the task of opening and developing the vast resources of the country committed to their charge.

Of the rest of this work we are not concerned to appertain to each of the parties engaged in it the exact measure of praise which may be due.

Where all have worked well, it would be invidious to distinguish, but this we may say, that the Government of the Dominion, and the officials they have sent here, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province and the gentlemen with whom he has been surrounded, as his constitutional advisers, have acted with but one aim—that of faithfully discharging the responsible functions which the possession of this noble heritage imposes upon those who have in their hands, the administration of public affairs.