

to take into consideration the present state of this country from a financial point of view, and see whether we are not, in our new-born dignity—in the importance we attach to ourselves under this new constitution—whether we are not going into a system of extravagance, which will bring about a deplorable state of affairs in this Dominion. (Hear, hear.) We are entering this new state of things with a debt hanging over our heads, amounting in the aggregate, including the debts of the different Provinces, to \$82,200,000. Then we propose to expend on works of fortifications, \$5,000,000; on the Intercolonial Railway, \$20,000,000; probably, in the acquisition of the North-West, not less than \$5,000,000; there is every probability from the estimates brought down, and the state of trade in the country, that there will be a deficit of \$2,000,000 for the year ending 30th June, 1868; add \$10,000,000 of extras on the Intercolonial Railway, and \$5,000,000 on the fortifications, if undertaken on the proposition of the Minister of Militia; and you have a total burden of indebtedness on this country, with a population of only three and a half millions, \$135,000,000, without there having been anything in the shape of war to bring on such a state of indebtedness. (Hear, hear.) I ask, when we are doubling our debts in the first Parliament of this Dominion, when we are adding to the burdens of the people at such a rate, ought we not to pause and consider whether the works proposed by the Hon. Baronet at the head of the Militia Department are required for the defence of the country at this moment, before we rush blindly at anybody's dictum into this scheme. I have no objection to our doing what lies in our power to meet the requirements of Great Britain, and to secure the proper defence of the country, and the means of defending it, in case of invasion. But I think it utter folly to throw our whole resources into a system of defence, when there is no probability of a war taking place with any enemy that could materially affect us. (Hear, hear.) I do not propose to occupy the time of the House any further on this subject. I merely wish to throw out these remarks and suggestions, and think if they have not the merit of being based on military experience, they will at least commend themselves to the common sense of the House and of the people of this country, who look with grave apprehension for our future on the enormous taxes that will be required to keep up the system of extravagance which is being inaugurated in this new Dominion. (Cheers.)

[Mr. Bodwell (Oxford South).]

Mr. Blanchet said what we required in the country was not a standing army, but that we should have every man ready in an emergency to fight the battles of this country. No one was more willing than himself to acknowledge the good that had been done during the past three or four years by the volunteers, but it must be remembered that that force could only be kept in times of excitement. He paid a high compliment to the volunteers of the old Province of Canada, particularly in that part now called Ontario, but the system did not sufficiently extend itself into the rural districts; and the Bill before the House would remedy the fault. He was glad to find that the organization of the Sedentary Militia, which had done such good service in 1812, had been provided for, and he considered the training which it was proposed to give the officers would be of great benefit. This branch of the service cost comparatively nothing, but in the event of war they could be brought into the field, and in a short time receive such training as would enable them to support the active force effectively. It had been the peculiarity of great nations to believe a great destiny was before them, and this very belief helped to make this destiny great. We in this New Dominion should accustom ourselves to believe this would be a great country, and if we would have it so we must prepare to defend it.

Dr. Parker said, we were standing at the commencement of our existence as a Dominion, and it was assumed that we had to adopt a system of defence suited to the Dominion. It did not appear to him that the Government had considered this question with that attention which its importance demanded, and which the various interests involved in it imperatively required that it should receive. Among the several systems of defence there were chiefly two; the continental system or that of Europe, and the American system that which prevailed in the United States before the American war. The continental one of constantly arming and preparing for war had led to the most disastrous results, and produced more internal weaknesses and premature decay than all the evils together under which Europe laboured. Yet this was the system the Government proposed to introduce, not heeding the fact that in Europe, Prussia, the nation which had best husbanded her resources, had won the most brilliant victories of modern times; and not heeding the wonderful progress in military science made by Americans also within