

Canada sent from the Atlantic side to England in 1878-79 were worth about twenty millions of dollars. Now, the exports of wheat alone, from the port of San Francisco, last year were \$16,788,772. I maintain that if we have a railway running from the cereal region east of the Rocky Mountains to within a short distance of the Pacific coast, that we will be just as able to ship our wheat to England as the people of San Francisco. We trust also to find a way traffic for this railway. By the settlement of that region east of our boundary, we will get this through traffic and by that means the railway will assist most materially to build up the country. I shall not go into detail further. I desire now to summarize a few facts from what I have already said upon this subject. We, British Columbia, import and export more than any other Province, *per capita*. We have contributed during the last year \$521,443 in Customs alone to the Revenue, whereas, at the same rate per head as we have been paying Ontario, would have contributed more than \$20,000,000. I contended on Friday night that 200 Ontarians paid as much as five Columbians; that five Columbians paid as much as 150 Quebecers; five Columbians paid as much forty Nova Scotians; that five Columbians paid as much as thirty New Brunswickers; and that five Columbians paid 150 per cent. more than ten Prince Edward Islanders. I showed that British Columbia paid into the Consolidated Fund last year \$275,762 more than she was lawfully bound to pay at the *per capita* rate of the Dominion. I showed that during the eight years, from 1871 to 1879, she paid in a total, in Customs and Excise, of \$3,392,152. But let us leave out of consideration the comparison with the Provinces separately, and come down to the average for the Dominion. Our proportion of Customs per capita of the Dominion is \$3.50; that is the amount per capita which we ought to pay, and, as our population is 50,000, we should by right contribute \$175,000 altogether; but the fact is we paid \$346,343 in addition to the \$175,000 which we should not pay by right. Yet we do not grumble. All we want is the Canadian Government to come to the front and carry out their obligations in the best possible way. The 50,000 population is based upon careful calcula-

tions. During the six months preceding my arrival here I gave a great deal of attention to the matter, and I came to the conclusion that, including our Indian population, our white population and the Chinese and every other nationality the number, our population, in the maximum, is 50,000. Now, it has been stated that \$1,449,956 has been expended on surveys in British Columbia, and as British Columbia has contributed, man for man, the large amount which I have stated more *per capita* than all the rest of the Dominion, it will be seen that over and above all railway expenditure, the Government hold in hand a net balance contributed in the eight years by British Columbia, over the remainder of the Dominion, of \$195,540. I am glad to see the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) in his seat; because I want to make reference to his statement, at Walkerton, that we had only a population of 2,000.

MR. BLAKE: No, no.

MR. DECOSMOS: The hon. gentleman stated that there were about as great a population in British Columbia as in the audience he was then addressing at Walkerton, and that audience was about 2,000 in number. I have it here in the *Globe*.

MR. BLAKE: I neither swear by, nor at the *Globe*; but what I really stated, was that the population numbered as many freeholders as the number then present; and I estimated the freeholders as one to five.

MR. DECOSMOS: Oh! freeholders. The hon. member for West Durham is well able to make that look better which looked so much worse. He stated that there were only 2,000 freeholders in British Columbia. I find also that he gives 12,000 paying \$553,362 in Excise and Customs in one year; that would be about \$47 per capita. Oh! I wish I were such a statistician as the hon. member for West Durham. I told the House the other night that I would deal with the Vancouver section of the railway at some other time. I know it will be built. I am only dealing with the Yale-Kamloops section; the total cost of which I estimate at \$3,000,000. I have shown that we pay \$340,000 a year more in Customs than the average taxation of the Dominion, and, therefore, we really shall pay all the expenses, in the shape of interest and sinking fund for the building of this railway.