

the Dominion—should sounds of discontent be heard from the people of the North-West—should it be known that in order to provide for our ordinary public wants we are obliged to submit to heavy local taxation, is it not probable that the very fact of such a state of affairs will prevent people from coming to this country to settle? Instead of obliging our Provincial authorities to turn the cold shoulder on immigration would it not be better to secure them as powerful allies. With an agitation go-

ing on in the country to procure the common necessities incident to good government, the Dominion would find it hard work to persuade people abroad that this is a prosperous and happy country to live in. Why not then, while the remedy is within reach, settle the matter satisfactorily for all time to come ere it is too late—ere the lands of Manitoba are frittered away for one purpose or another and nothing is left to the Dominion but to put her hand in her pocket for the support of her North-Western children.

## LETTER II.

It has often been contended, and is believed still by many persons throughout the Dominion, that the lands of the North-West were purchased by Canada and that therefore Manitoba has no right to administer them. This is a fallacy altogether, as the Dominion Government merely paid the \$1,500,000 to the Hudson's Bay Co., not as value for the lands, but as compensation for the abandonment of any rights which they may have had under their charter. There are grave doubts whether the Hudsons Bay Company had really any title to the lands, their charter being more for trading purposes. But it was held by the British authorities that the H. B. Co. had a claim to the country, and in order to dispose of that stumbling-block to the acquisition of the North-West, Canada agreed to purchase their rights, whatever they might be. Had Canada not acquired the privilege of extending confederation from ocean to ocean the North-Western Territory would have become a Crown Colony for the simple reason that as it was a part of the British possessions, Great Britain would have resumed control over the country—a control which had been only temporarily vested in a trading company under a charter. As the best legal opinion held that compen-

sation was due the Hudson's Bay Company, and as Canada desired to extend her dominion, it was necessary to arrange this matter of compensation ere England would allow her possession to pass into other hands than her own. Had a Crown Colony been formed there is no doubt the administration of the lands would have been vested in the Colonial Government thus formed for the support of such institutions as might have been required by the colonists. It is folly then to suppose that \$1,500,000 was ever meant as purchase money for the lands; it was expended for the purpose of allowing Canada to extend her jurisdiction outside of her then circumscribed area.

Under the constitution of Confederation there is nothing to show in it that the Federal Government would ever be expected to administer the lands, but there is everything to indicate that the Provinces forming Confederation ought to enjoy the benefits of their own resources for purposes of local improvement and as a proof of this we find that in every case except Manitoba, the crown lands timber, minerals, &c., belong to the Province. In the case of Prince Edward Island between \$700,000 and \$800,000 has been advanced from the Dominion Treasury to enable her to acquire public lands,

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