

into the general treasury for customs, \$1,576,699.98, and excise since 1884 to 1880, \$216,244.34, her right and importance must be conceded by all impartial people. It is evident that for some time past an opinion has been gaining ground and is rapidly acquiring force that Manitoba is too much governed by Ontario, and it will be the duty of Manitobans to insist upon their autonomy being freely and fairly established as people of a Canadian Province, and not as colonists.

### PUBLIC LANDS.

*From the Manitoba Mountaineer.*

With this issue of the Mountaineer we mail a folio containing a series of letters bearing on the present relation of Manitoba to the Dominion. The papers were sent to us, with a request that we would distribute them, and having hastily read the letters and found them on the whole free from party bias, and evidently written in the interest of this Province, we willingly comply with that request, and present them to our readers to-day. Very evidently the writer of these letters has been at considerable pains to inform himself upon the several points discussed, and that he has handled the subject in a very able manner; no one, perhaps will deny. In our necessarily hasty reading we detected a few weaknesses, and in one case—at the beginning of the fifth letter, referring to the wild land tax—positive, and we are afraid willful, mistatement; but on the whole the argument is very fairly and forcibly put, and in the conclusions arrived at we most heartily concur. It is simply outrageous that all the other Provinces of the Dominion should hold public lands and Manitoba none. The obvious injustice of the arrangement is apparent at a glance. British Columbia, with a fourth part of our population and in receipt of more than double our revenue, receives a sum equal to the whole of our subsidy merely for the right of way of the C. P. R.

through her public lands, and we of Manitoba are compelled to bear a portion of this burden. By what right, we would like to ask, does the Dominion take all the land from one Province and grant to another an annual rent, equal to more than full value, for a strip of land on which to construct a public institution from which the Province receiving that rent secures the greatest benefit—in fact, almost the sole benefit? Again, Prince Edward Island at the outset had no public lands. A certain sum was taken out of the Dominion exchequer and handed over to the authorities of that Province with which to attain public lands. Of that money so handed over, we of Manitoba have to pay our share, for it was borrowed money. By what right does the Dominion thus compel a Province, which it has deprived of public lands, to aid in securing public lands for another Province nearly two thousand miles away? To change the quotation a little, "taxation without benefit is tyranny," and what benefit is it intended Manitoba, having no lands of her own, shall receive from being taxed, to provide lands for Prince Edward Island? Yet again, by what right does Canada appropriate wild lands in this Province, where the treasury is empty, to aid in defraying the cost of building a national highway through Ontario, where the treasury is overflowing, while the wild lands in that Province are left untouched? Half of our available lands having been thus appropriated, by what shadow of a right does the Dominion claim to hold the balance, all charges on the land having been long ago paid?

These are weighty problems, but they are not difficult to solve. The answer to each is: The right of might. When the Dominion authorities decided to carve out the Province of Manitoba, the territory embraced contained but few inhabitants, and these few were not deemed worthy of being consulted in the matter. To be sure they rebelled, but the potent argument of force was