

## THE TUNNEL

traceable to American slavery days—is \$1,000 per head. If the poorest of European immigrants is worth \$1,000, a Prince Edward Islander, with his agricultural training, his civic and moral virtues, his pluck and intelligence, is easily worth ten times as much, on our plains. But even at \$1,000 per head we have lost of our flesh and blood, our most precious asset, **EIGHTEEN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS**—the price of two tunnels—in ten years! And just at present the greatest exodus ever known in the province is in full swing. The tunnel alone can correct it.

Agriculture cannot flourish where there is no industrial life: an active consumption makes good markets; good markets improve the price of products; paying products increase land values—everything is dependent upon the quick and profitable interchange of commodity. We must have access to the consumers of our agricultural produce by means, at least, of accurate and reasonable communication, or competition will drive us from the field. Not only is the Island capable of sustaining another hundred thousand people on the land, but with the unit of communication assured, another hundred thousand can be employed in industrial pursuits. At the present every industry in sight is either dead or dying; with the tunnel they will quickly revive, increase, prosper, as in few other lands.

Just now Prince Edward Island contributes at least \$1,400,000 to the General Revenue annually; and receives scarcely one half of that sum in return. 300,000 people would treble that amount; and, apart from the annual subsidy, exact little more than the present expenditure—What a Federal investment! Just now we pay an intolerable toll on everything we produce and everything we consume; the tunnel would give us the same facilities, at the same cost, as on the continent; and enable us to enter the provincial markets on equal footing with our competitors. What this would mean to our Island, who can overstate? Through communication too, should ensure to us the tourist traffic of Canada. This is the "Garden of the Gulf," the Paradise of the tourist, without any doubt. There are millions in this business for us. The tunnel would at once bring up our land values immensely and thus add to the provincial wealth; it would develop our fisheries amazingly; it would stimulate to the full every activity in the land; and, having added to our happiness and prosperity, it would place us without the painful necessity of making angry protests or begging appeals to the Central Government. With it we can easily work out our destiny,—the happiest and most prosperous of the provinces—and add our full part to the general development of Canada. To put us in this