

question of providing for the future government of the country ought to be dealt with now with a view of setting it for all time to come. To do this we must suppose that Manitoba, which is about as large as Ontario in extent of country, will ere many years have a population equal, in point of numbers, to that province. The expenses of government would then be about the same in each. Now, taking the estimates of Ontario for 1881 we find the expenditure of that province to be as follows:

Civil Government	\$ 178,229.00
Legislation	108,900.00
Administration of Justice	286,660.00
Education	505,025.83
Public institutions main- tenance	534,412.80
Immigration	41,200.00
Agriculture, arts, literary and scientific institutions	108,750.00
Hospitals and charities	78,141.98
Miscellaneous	50,263.73
Public buildings	14,000.00
Public works	11,500.00
Charges on crown lands	75,000.00
Unforeseen and unprovided	50,000.00
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	\$ 2,034,823.24

To meet this expenditure Ontario enjoys a subsidy from the Dominion of \$1,196,872.80 and from her crown lands, timber sales, law stamps, and revenue from public institutions, municipalities fund and common school lands she has somewhere about \$900,000, making in all nearly \$2,100,000. In addition to this, however, Ontario has husbanded her returns from land and timber sales, etc., until she has now a large surplus of several millions, on which she draws interest, thus swelling her annual revenue to a considerable amount.

Now the question arises, is Manitoba likely in the near future to have a population equal to that enjoyed by Ontario to-day, and if so, where is the means of revenue to come from to meet the expenses of self government? Suppose Manitoba to have a million inhabitants,

is it not reasonable to expect that the requisite expenditure of the Provincial Government would amount to a couple of million dollars annually? Where then is that money to come from, if the present arrangements are not altered? No intelligent man will deny the certainty of our expenditure increasing year by year as our population and requirements become greater. Unless then some means are adopted to place the province on an independent footing, it is going to be a subject of continual dispute and disagreement to re-adjust the subsidy from time to time to meet the growing wants of the country. As certainly as the sun rises each day will Manitoba require ere many years to expend as much money annually, as Ontario does now, and just as certain is it that unless some steps are taken at this time to create a revenue independent of Dominion aid, there will be a vexed and expensive question to solve in the future, namely: Provision for enabling the North-Western Provinces to carry on their machinery of local government. Is it likely that the people of the North-West will be content to remain deprived of institutions enjoyed by Ontario, Quebec, and the other Provinces? No! and neither is it probable that these institutions can be developed without the aid of money.

It will not redound to the credit of our public men now at the helm if they leave as a legacy to the people of Canada the settlement of such an important question in the future, when it can be so easily arranged at this time without any heavy expense or detriment to the Dominion.

There is, however, another view to take of the matter, and it is this:—The future welfare of Canada depends greatly on the development and success of the North-west. Now the contentment of the people living here will prove a great inducement to others abroad to follow in their footsteps; but should there be an outcry against the unfair treatment of