

the most bitter criticisms on the part of the Bleu press. The inspirers of that press are so accustomed to regard the Federal Treasury, as their treasury, as a thing belonging to themselves, to the exclusion of all others, that they consider as a theft and a sacrilege any attempt to make the people participate in the treasures which constantly pour into the coffers of the Government at Ottawa. And after all, what is it that we ask? We ask, and rightly, I think, that of the twenty five or twenty six millions of taxes received by the Federal Government, it should grant to the provinces sufficient to maintain their local institutions without obliging them to have recourse to direct taxation, which would give their death blow to the Provincial Legislatures and would be an irresistible and fatal step towards Legislative Union.

Here is what we ask :

The subsidies guaranteed to the Provinces by the Confederation Act are of two kinds : the specific subsidy for the maintenance of the Government and the Legislature and the *per capita* subsidy, based on the figure of the population as established by the census of 1861, for the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and for the other provinces, on a figure determined by statute. All the change we propose is to triple the specific subsidy and to base the *per capita* subsidy on the figure of the population, not of 1861, but as established by each decennial census. For the province of Quebec, this change would be equivalent to an increase of \$347,968.80, calculating on the basis of the census of 1881 and at 80 cents per head for the *per capita* subsidy. Calculated on the same basis as for the other provinces, the increase of the specific subsidy, for the maintenance of the Government and Legislature, would only amount to \$140,000 a year for our Province ; but, owing to the necessity imposed on us to print our public documents in both languages, which occasions an increased expenditure that does not exist in the other provinces, we insisted on getting \$10,000 more and succeeded in doing so, so that instead of obtaining under this head an augmentation of the subsidy only to the extent of \$140,000, like Ontario, we shall have \$150,000.

RESULTS OF THIS AUGMENTATION

I need not tell you, gentlemen, that with this increase of the Dominion subsidy, the financial position of the province will be perfectly assured for the