

They have also pointed out the existence of millions of unsettled acres of prairie lands in Manitoba and the North West territory, of the richest productive capacity,—lands which are probably more favourable for the growth of wheat in greater abundance and perfection than those of any other country in the world ; and which at no distant day it is believed and hoped will become the homes of many millions of men from the old world.

The desire to emigrate having been awakened, the interest to do so clearly demonstrated, and the need for labour felt in every part of the Dominion, there comes the question of the duty of the people of Canada in the premises. It is of vast importance that they should supplement the action of the Government. The Government may do much to assist immigration ; and it is its duty to use the utmost exertion within its power. But whatever is done or expended by the Government must be paid for by the people indirectly. I have already, through the agents of the Department, made an appeal to the employers of labour in Canada to provide for themselves in the labour markets of the United Kingdom and the continent of Europe the supplies they need. They can do this without much risk, and indeed without any appreciable risk, if they unite in societies. The agents of the Government, as already stated, are instructed to receive the money advanced in this country ; they will make selections of the emigrants ; and they will make contracts with them, which are protected by law, to repay the money advanced, in labour. More can be done by this means than in any other way to enable many thousands of Immigrants to reach Canada ; the demands for labour will at the same time be supplied ; and that in the only way in which they can be. Both parties will thus be benefitted,—the employer of labor as well as the laborer ; as will also the Dominion, which will contribute its quota to the arrangement.

It will be the interest of every man in Canada to consider, before the season is too far advanced, where his labour this year is to come from. It may be stated with positiveness that it cannot come from the ordinary immigration. And I have the confident hope and belief that the appeal which has been made to the farmers, manufacturers, contractors, and others, in Canada, will meet with a favourable response, and that they will advance the means, to be repaid in full, for bringing to them the labour which they require and which they cannot otherwise obtain.

Should the appeal which has been made, fail to awaken that interest in the employers of labour in Canada in a great work that has been well begun, I should feel that a great opportunity had been lost to obtain a considerable influx of population, and that the efforts which have been made by the Government would be to some extent defeated, either by the apathy of the people or a too great reliance on what the Government can itself unaided do ; but in either case the result would be one to be regretted.

The total expenditure in the service of immigration, in 1872, was much larger than in previous years, as will appear from the following comparative statement for three years :—

		1870.	1871.	1872.
Quebec	Agency .....	\$31,000 30	\$26,263 79	\$36,715 62
Montreal	do .....	2,839 43	3,933 73	7,965 93