

Annexation Association of Montreal.

TO THE PEOPLE OF CANADA

We now propose to place before you a short tract, which will enable you to judge for yourselves of the comparative merits of our system of Government, and that of our neighbours of the United States. We shall confine ourselves for the present to showing the comparative Expense of the two systems, and for the purpose of comparison will select the populous and wealthy State of New York, which is usually designated by Americans themselves as the Empire State to mark its prominence in the Union for wealth, population and power. It may be said, indeed, that in doing this we are conceding to our opponents more than candour requires of us; but, in reply, we would state that the extravagance of our system makes it necessary to select the State of New York for comparison, as the expenses of any other State compared with ours would be so ridiculously small, as to lead people to suppose that ours could not be assimilated to theirs. With this view, therefore, we select the Empire State, containing a population of three millions of souls to compare with Canada containing only a million and a half. These facts, of relative population should be steadily borne in mind, as they are important in estimating the disadvantages of our costly and defective system. We have prepared tables (which will be found annexed), showing the cost of our Executive, Judicial and Legislative Departments, compared with the cost of the same Departments in the State of New York. These tables have been compiled with great care and may be relied upon as correct. The expenses of our own Departments have been made up from Parliamentary documents, and those of the State of New York from the report of the Comptroller of the State, the Legislative Manual, and the United States Almanac.

Let us now analyse them and compare the more important items.

First, there is our Governor General; he receives \$31,111 \pounds annum. Against him we place the Governor of the State of New York, who receives \$4,000 \pounds annum.

Our Governor presides over the affairs of a million and a half of souls; theirs over the affairs of three millions of souls. Ours, by a fiction of our Constitution, is a cypher, his duties performed by deputies, his office to all appearance a sinecure; theirs is a working man and directly responsible to the people for every Act of Government he performs. Without drawing invidious comparisons, it may be safely affirmed that the two offices require to be filled by men eminent for talent, industry and character. Governor Fish, the present Governor of the State of New York, the people's choice, is a man of acknowledged worth and ability, and his salary is only \$4,000 \pounds annum. Our Governor—of whom we will only say that he cannot stand higher in the estimation of the people of Canada, than Governor Fish does in that of the people of New York—receives, as already stated, \$31,111 \pounds annum for doing by deputy what Governor Fish does in person. Reader, can there be one good reason set up for such enormous extravagance—for paying our Governor about eight times as much as the State of New York pays to the man of her choice?

We will next compare the expense of the Governors' Secretaries. By our table it will be seen that the Secretary of the Governor of three millions of people receives \$100 \pounds annum, whilst our Governor General's Civil Secretary and Clerks, cost us \$7,700 \pounds annum. Were we here merely advocating retrenchment in our expendi-