

ascertained that, although a great deal was to be done, things were not so irretrievably bad as they seemed. Such political squabbles may be regarded as the measles and whooping cough of nationality, but with us the attack was so severe as to do material injury to the country. However, of late years, legislation has pulled up wonderfully, and our politicians have, for the most part, seen the error of their ways.

Notwithstanding these adverse influences, Canada has not been sluggish in her movement. The statistics for Ontario and Quebec for the last twenty years exhibit evidence of prosperity. In 1850 the total value of exports and imports for these two Provinces was under thirty millions of dollars; for the year 1860 the amount was over sixty-eight millions; while for the year ended 30th June, 1867, it had risen to upwards of one hundred and seven millions of dollars. During nine years the imports into Ontario and Quebec increased upwards of 81 per cent.; into Nova Scotia, 62, and New Brunswick 38 per cent.; while the exports of Ontario and Quebec increased 44 per cent.; Nova Scotia 20 per cent. and New Brunswick 25 per cent. The deposits in banks increased from \$8,358,437 in 1859 to \$31,600,000 in 1868. During the last three years the deposits in banks and savings' banks increased from \$32,600,000 to \$37,500,000. The railway traffic shewed an increase from \$4,620 per mile in 1866, to \$5,020 in 1868. In one year the value of assessed property in Ontario increased \$3,588,000. The repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty did not work such great harm as some suppose. During the last year of the treaty the exports to the United States from all the Provinces of the Dominion, amounted to \$21,340,000; in 1868, to \$20,061,000, showing a decrease of a little over five per cent. But inter-provincial trade received a great impetus. In 1866-7 there were sent to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick 408,000 barrels of flour; in 1867-8 443,000 were sent, showing an excess of about 33 per cent. The demand for Nova Scotia coal is manifesting itself more strongly in Ontario and Quebec, and though the increase last year was about 17 per cent. over the previous year, the figures for the present year will be found to be much larger.

The average annual increase in population has been in Ontario  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., Quebec  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , New Brunswick  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and Nova Scotia 2. In 1868, a comparison was made as to the amount of debt the other British Colonies have to bear in proportion to population as well as annual charges with that of Canada. The result was, New Zealand, \$6.02 per cent. per head; Queensland, \$4.97; New South Wales, \$3.21; Victoria, \$2.88; Canada, \$1.12. The total taxation is an annual charge of a little

over \$5 per head instead of \$45 per head as in New York and the debt less than \$28 per head as compared with \$158 in the State of New York.

Notwithstanding the enterprise of our cousins across the lines, despite their genius for competition and their high and hostile tariffs, we have done pretty well for "Britishers," and we can afford to hear with complacency their patriotic boasts, while our patriotism manifests itself in a quiet satisfaction and a determination to go ahead. We have but 3,900,000 of a population. Ere long we shall have a territory, at the least, over two millions of square miles in extent. While we bear rule over so much land we claim to rank third among the maritime countries of the world.

A great deal has been said about the number of people who leave Canada for the States. It is true a great many young men do go there, but it is also true that many come back. For that matter, a great many Americans come and settle in Canada; but this proves nothing more than that people will rove about. Canada never witnessed such an era of progress as at the present time. Railways are being built in all directions; new branches of industry are being developed; new territory is being opened up; and we have organized a system of immigration which has already borne good fruit. We have a new and fertile West for our young men, where their adventurous spirit can sate itself. Each Province is vying with the other in economy. Our people are comfortable, and well satisfied with their political institutions. When we say that we have the freest country upon earth, it is no idle boast, for we challenge contradiction. Indeed, our American neighbors are the readiest to confess it; and none are more earnest in their advice that we should retain our identity than those who have experienced the evils which the better educated classes in the States labor under. On the whole, we think that Annexation, even as a topic of discussion, had better be postponed.

#### MARKED CHEQUES.

The paying teller of a bank which has an active business does not enjoy a sinecure. Not only is his honesty put to the test, but the nature of his duties places his good name and his prospects at the mercy of others, sometimes even at the mercy of chance. He, like everybody else, is liable to errors in calculation; but, unlike everybody else, he has to bear their full consequences. When he pays out two bank notes instead of one, or a roll of sovereigns instead of silver, the excess is not lost to the bank, but forms a set-off for so much against his own salary. Few

will envy a teller who finds his cash in excess; certainly none will begrudge him the worry which results when his cash is short; the weary retracing of the day's business—the anxious tax of memory—the fruitless search after a mistake which defies every effort at discovery—the hesitating confession—the meek acceptance of rebuke, and the submission to loss. The general rule respecting payments over the counter is, that mistakes must be rectified at the time, before the sufferer leaves the bank premises, but in practice it can scarcely be said to be strictly followed. Were it imperative and irrefragable, one could scarcely say that it is unjust; for a teller has to do with a great number of people who are strangers to him, and might be cheated time and again, if liable to be called on to open up transactions, all trace of which has been obliterated in a multiplicity of payments.

The rule referred to is supposed by some to justify the keeping of all that one gets from a bank clerk, whether entitled to it or not. Such a conclusion savours little of morality, and we are glad to believe that but few act upon it. There are, however, persons, who can retain, with a chuckle of satisfaction, an extra five or ten dollars over the amount they are entitled to receive from a bank, and yet would repudiate the name of thief, and would consider their honesty unimpeachable.

The *Quebec Gazette* puts forward the following state of facts as the particulars of a case which recently occurred in Toronto:—A presented B's cheque to the ledger-keeper of the Ontario Bank, and it was marked good, in the usual manner; but before A left the premises, the ledger-keeper discovered that he had made a mistake, and requested him to return the cheque, in order that the acceptance might be corrected. A refused to do so, but brought his action, and got judgment, subject to a motion for non-suit. We quite agree with our contemporary when it says:—If a man occupying a respectable position in society is permitted to possess himself of \$70 by the accident described, and to be declared legally entitled to retain the money, we do not see why another individual, who may see a person drop his pocket-book containing \$700, and who picks it up, should not be allowed to keep it. The two things are very much alike; and we do not see that the man who "found" the porte-monnaie, and insisted upon appropriating its contents, would be more to blame than he who, by the miscalculation of a bank clerk (of which he was immediately informed), possessed himself of a sum of money, or of its equivalent, in the way we have stated. This view commends itself as the right and proper one to take of such a transaction.