

that, looking simply to the financial point, our sister Province of Ontario receives a larger subsidy than we do,—has a larger amount of land arrears than we have,—and in regard to certain matters, can easily practise some apparent economies that we cannot. They have not the heavy expense, as to printing and otherwise, of the two languages. I admit all this. But if any one tells me that because of these difficulties we cannot make the system work satisfactorily and well for ourselves and for the country, I laugh at the idea. [Cheers.] The thing is simply ridiculous, supremely absurd. Why, Mr. Speaker, I remember—I speak to many who remember with me—the past thirty years and more of the history of Lower Canada, the feud of races, the civil war, that indeed did then threaten to destroy us. Thank God, in spite even of all that, we are where we are, in a position of prosperity, contentment and promise, such as none dared dream of in those dark days of '37 and '38. [Cheers.] Tell me that having passed safely through such trials, we are to be moved now by this trumpery talk of the cost of carrying on our system in two languages, and of our having less money at our disposal than the Ontario people! We certainly have less disposition to talk eternally about our greatness, wealth, economy and all that. [Cheers, and laughter.] Do I not remember, too, later,—from '48 to '50, in Montreal,—myself and some others with me, being laughed at by almost everybody, because we could not join in the ridiculous talk, then prevalent there, about that place and the whole country going then to ruin and decay for ever and ever? [Applause.] Why, even in '58 and '59, when the Legislature of old Canada sat for its last term in Toronto,—what Lower Canadian does not remember the way the Torontonians laughed at us and exulted over us, telling us that Toronto and Hamilton—Kingston, even—were going ahead of Montreal, and that Quebec was nowhere? Where are we all now? With the present growth and prosperity of Montreal, has Quebec reason to be despondent? We have plenty to do; but if we have the heart and courage for it,—trust in ourselves and one another,—trust in our God,—we have no more before us than we can do. [Loud cheers.]

You may tell me that a great deal of the land of Lower Canada is exhausted. So it is; but there is not better land under heaven, than that very exhausted clay soil, if only it is properly cultivated. You may tell me a good deal of our newer land is considerably exhausted; but take the bulk of our people who know what they are about—and no people have more capacity when they set to work, or more energy and self-denial—none are more economical and industrious—set them to work on their soil, exhausted now or not, in the right spirit, and I tell you as much can be done with the lands of this Province of Quebec, as with those of any other country under heaven. A few years ago, where was Scotland? Even now, but for the extraordinary energy and enterprise of her sons, what would New England be? It is not the country with the finest climate, the richest soil—in a word, the greatest physical advantages—that prospers most. It is the country with the hardiest and best people, the people who take best advantage of limited natural resources, who have to combat, and do combat manfully, with natural disadvantages. There is no country better placed than ours for testing the qualities of a race, and developing its capacities. There is none better placed for trade, nor probably for manufactures; and I believe the day is not far distant, when without any