

So with Canada at confederation, she was doing business in a small way, but four provinces keeping along together; today she has a magnificent realm second to none (applause) on this continent and doing a magnificent business, the pride of every true Canadian and the admiration of every stranger who studies her history. (Enthusiastic cheering). But, Mr. Blake still prophesies ruin ahead, \$11,000,000 at confederation, \$35,000,000 now; but, like the young man of whom I have spoken, Canada looks up into his face and smiles and says: "All right, Mr. Blake, I am not on the back street today; I am in the front rank of young nations, I must necessarily redouble my exertions for the future which is to be richer than the past. I have hope in my heart, joy in my countenance, and happiness in my homes from Cape Breton to British Columbia; and, while this is so, you can go prophesy and criticise if it pleases you." (Deafening applause).

We expend more, it is true; but we have more people to contribute to the revenue, we earn more from our investments and public works we give back larger amounts to the provinces, we lay up more yearly to pay our debt, and we have growing public services for which to provide.

In 1867 our population was but little over 3,000,000; now it is nearly 5,000,000.

In 1867 our earnings were but \$1,987,247; in 1885 they had increased to \$7,412,470.

In 1867 we gave back in direct cash to the provinces \$2,753,966; in 1885 we gave them \$3,950,326.

In 1867 we invested in sinking fund for payment of debt \$35,266; in 1885 we paid into sinking fund \$1,482,051.

And we must bear in mind as well that while in 1867 the Dominion revenue was called upon to pay the interest on provincial debts of only \$75,000,000, in 1885 it had to pay the interest of \$106,000,000 of provincial indebtedness.

Taking all these things into consideration it may be said that the normal expenditure in 1885, although greater than in 1867 by many millions, was not more burdensome to the increased number of people, while the services for which it was incurred were far more productive of advantages, and brought in a corresponding return of financial benefits and general comfort.

As an example of the wide extension of public service let me give you two examples only:—

#### STATISTICS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

	1868.	1885.
No. of Officers .....	3,638	7,084
" Letters Carried, .....	18,100,000	63,400,000
" Post Cards .....	None.	13,800,000
" Registered Letters, .....	704,750	3,060,000
Miles Travelled, .....	10,622,216	22,173,455
Money Orders Issued, .....	\$3,342,574	\$10,384,210
P. O. Savings Banks, .....	213	355
No. of Depositors .....	6,079	73,322
Amount Deposited, .....	\$861,655	\$7,093,459
Revenue, .....	\$1,024,710	\$2,400,062

#### STATISTICS OF LIGHT-HOUSE SERVICE—LIGHTS AND FOG WHISTLES.

	1868.	1885.
Ontario, .....	67	175
Quebec, .....	64	167
New Brunswick, .....	26	114
Nova Scotia, .....	62	175
Prince Edward Island, (1873) .....	17	46
British Columbia, .....	3	10
Manitoba, .....	0	2
Total, .....	230	689

This latter table does not include the great extension of our Buoy and Beacon System, and the creation of our Signal System in the Gulf, the laying of Submarine Cables, and our system of Weather and Storm predictions.

A glance at the above tables shows how greatly the service of our country has extended, and what necessary increased expenditures must be made to sustain them. But no one would think of curtailing either to the dimensions of 1867.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I do not wish to weary you but having dealt with the charges under two heads I desire to say a word or two upon the third point.

#### THE QUESTION OF POLICY—CONFEDERATION OF THE PROVINCES.

As to the policy of the administration has it been a wise one or has it been a failure, has it been a good policy or has it been a bad one as shewn by the results?

What was the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party when it first became the Liberal-Conservative party? At the Union the old progressive Conservatives and the old progressive Liberals