

at a low rate. The debt for the population is small—whilst Australia with a population of 1,917,070 has a public debt of £36,170,371 sterling. The Dominion with 3,530,105 people has a debt of only £15,939,728—(see Canada Year Book, 1873—statistics for 1870.) Putting the population in 1880 at four millions, (it ought to be far more), the interest on the whole cost of the railway, which will not, of course, have to be paid until some years after that date, will at five per cent. average the magnificent sum of \$1 25 per annum, or 10½ cents per month per head.

If the dread of having such a responsibility in, say, 1892, frightens the Canadians from undertaking the Transcontinental Railway. It would be gross flattery to describe them as a courageous or patriotic people. What \$1 25 may look like under Mr. Mackenzie's magnifier is not worth stopping to consider.

Taxation is the bogey with which Mr. Mackenzie is scaring the national spirit out of existence. The sum of \$1 25 per head per annum—instead of forty cents for a few years, and then nothing at all—is put down, because it must be remembered that we have a blundering administration thoroughly incapable of framing a railway policy in which taxation would be reduced to a minimum, and be based on equity. Numerous methods might be sketched out and suggested, but the initiation of legislation rests with the Government and interference with its functions is to be deprecated by all good citizens. Our duty and privilege it is to wait the action of the Government and to criticize it. In the present condition of the Dominion one, fact is clear, that the rate of taxation is a secondary thing. Whether it is a little more or a little less is not the great question. Bear in mind that Canada is very lightly taxed and the United States very heavily taxed, and yet there are 500,000 Canadians in the United States, and less than 8,000 citizens of the Republic in Canada, even including all those whose origins are not given—at least so says the Year book of 1874. How is this? Clearly it is not the lowness of taxation that draws people, but things moving, prospering, and going ahead. Immigrants do not ask what are your taxes, but have you work for us, and what is the pay? In the Eastern provinces manufacturers cannot absorb much labor because their market is small.

They do not require a Treaty which will let in competition, threatening annihilation, but they urgently need a railway policy which will give them in a few years a million of customers west of Lake Superior.

THE COMPLETION OF THE RAILWAY WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT IS EVEN NOW NOT AN IMPOSSIBILITY. Taking things relatively, what is possible in railway work in the United States with moderate Gov-