

amount was shipped for Montreal and Quebec, shewing that the district to be benefitted by the Guelph line produces a much larger amount of Agricultural produce than the Country intersected by the Sandusky and Mansfield Road. There is, moreover, a large section of Country, the produce of which is now shipped at Hamilton, that will in the case the Railroad is completed unquestionably find the best market at Toronto.

The Michigan Central Railroad passes through an Agricultural Country from the City of Detroit to New Buffalo on Lake Michigan, connecting as this road does Lake Michigan with the St. Clair—the returns shew most conclusively that the principal dependence of this road is for the local traffic, as in the last year of which we have an Official Return, the way passengers were 69,778, and the through only 13,409. This road too is an excellent illustration of the effects of Railroads in stimulating production and developing the resources of a Country. The receipts of this line for the month of May in three consecutive years were respectively as follows:

1845.	1846.	1847.
\$15,624.	\$32,819.	\$41,011.

Since that time, the Annual Report says, "From the large accession of business the past year, the Directors have been obliged to increase the number of engines; also the passenger and freight cars; and a greater increase will be required the coming year."

Your Committee find that, as a general rule, the great majority of the railroads of the United States pay good dividends, and are generally considered as good investments; although, from the scarcity of surplus capital in that country, the price of stock is not commensurate with the rate of dividend.

The average return by the railroad in the United States seems to average a little over seven per cent.; *in very few cases is it below six per cent.*, while in others it is as high as fifteen per cent.

In the course of their examination, your Committee have had occasion to remark the amazing effect of railroads, in increasing the number of travellers, augmenting the wealth and developing the resources of a country, in a ratio not to be accounted for by a mere increase of population. A few examples of which we give below, taken almost at random from an immense mass of similar facts.