

of the country that as much travel should be attracted to the country as could possibly be managed by any measure within the functions of the Government. We have always recognized the duty of assisting in procuring rapid transit for mails and passengers to this country, but such means as we have hitherto used have, in the course of events, become antiquated. Ships which twenty years ago or longer, when this service was first inaugurated, were considered magnificent vessels, and were amongst the finest on the ocean, have now dwindled down to vessels which people are not disposed to patronize, owing to superior ships on other routes; and adopting the same principle that we adopted when we first subsidized a line across the Atlantic, it would be wise now to assist to a moderate extent to procure the establishment of lines of steamers on both sides of our continent which would constitute our country a thoroughfare between Europe and Asia. The mere question of the money which passengers would pay crossing our continent is nothing as compared with the advantage which would accrue to us in having the world travelling across our magnificent prairies, seeing the facilities for the expansion of life, for the maintenance of countless millions of the old world, who are dragging on a miserable existence where they now are; it would be of enormous benefit to us to show our North-West to the whole travelling world, and by that means probably to attract more attention towards our advantages and to the facilities which our country offers for the production of all necessaries of life than could be attained by any system through immigration agents, or by any other system for promoting immigration that has yet been suggested. I do not know any immigration agent that could produce as strong an impression on the mind of any one as the sight which presents itself to those crossing the continent, travelling three days and three nights through a fertile country awaiting the plough. It is not only the merely incidental and sentimental advantage of being able to say that our country is the thoroughfare between two portions of the old world, but it is the absolute, practical, substantial benefit that we should gain by the making known to the whole world the advantages we possess. Immigration,

of course, of a proper kind, is really the great desideratum of this country. Every man who comes here reduces our debt *pro tanto* and pays his contribution to the revenue of the country. If we had the North-West filled up we should soon be in the position of the United States, which hon. gentlemen oppositely praise, and no doubt with justice, of rapidly reducing our debt and coming to have a surplus. The strain which we have put on ourselves to make these great inter-colonial and inter-oceanic means of transport has been the main cause of our debt, and the best means of relief from our indebtedness is to fill up our country with people who will contribute to pay it off. This is really the motive that the Government have in endeavoring to encourage trans-Atlantic communication by a superior class of steamers to those which this country has yet obtained. I do not know exactly to what my hon. friend from Halifax has referred in speaking of the money being laid out by the Government in the harbor of Montreal. There is no money being laid out or about to be laid out in the harbor of Montreal. Nothing of the kind is contemplated, that I know of. The harbor of Montreal has been built up by judicious and careful management of its own revenues, and not by Government money. I hope the resolution will pass unanimously.

The motion was agreed to.

## INLAND REVENUE RETURNS.

### AN EXPLANATION.

HON. MR. ABBOTT presented the Inland Revenue Return. He said; the details contained in this report with reference to the sale of liquor in Ontario are all absolutely correct. A summary of these statements has usually been prepared by a clerk in the Department and inserted in the report. In this case the clerk prepared a statement in which he made a gross error. I do not know exactly to what extent the error goes, but some statements have been made animadverting on this mistake, as if it were intentional, and calculated to throw discredit on the operation of the Scott Act.

HON. MR. SCOTT—The whiskey *per capita* that we drink.