

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance the other night took the ground that our progress had been in the highest degree satisfactory, that we had, I understood him to assert, very little to wish for, that, under all the circumstances, we could not have expected to have progressed more rapidly or to have occupied a more favorable position than we now occupied. If our growth and development have been satisfactory, why there is no great reason to require change or modification of our commercial relations; and I propose to inquire briefly and in a very candid manner whether our growth and development have been of a satisfactory character. First with respect to increase of population. In 1871 we had 3,635,000 inhabitants; in 1881, 4,324,000 inhabitants, the increase being 689,000 souls, an increase of about 18½ per cent. I turn to the United States and find the increase in that country in the decade commencing one year earlier and ending one year earlier was 30 8, as against 18½ in Canada. This is not satisfactory. Here we have a difference in the increase of population of the two countries of more than 11 per cent. against ourselves, and there is no reason for it. This is a strong vigorous race in Canada, a race which would naturally increase more rapidly than the population in the United States, and if our increase in population was 11 per cent. less than that of the United States our ratio of progress and development is shown to be unsatisfactory by that one fact. As I stated a while ago, we have probably in the United States to day one million of Canadians; last census showed 712,000 and the ratio of increase that obtained between 1870 and 1880 would give within a fraction of one million. All these facts prove that our progress has not been satisfactory. There is another matter which shows this fact still more clearly: The United States have developed in excess of Canada in many respects. They raised last year \$700,000,000 worth of corn, a larger quantity of wheat than we raised per head, an enormous quantity of wines and fruits, of which we raised comparatively nothing, a larger quantity of wool, more sheep, a vastly larger number of swine, in proportion to population; and of articles that we do not produce, tobacco to the value of \$43,372,000; cotton to the value of \$254,117,000; sugar 145,000 hogsheads. In manufactures, where Canada produced in 1881 to the value of \$309,676,000, the United States produced in 1880 \$5,369,667,000 worth, or equal to five-tenths *per capita* in excess of our production. All industries, according to Mulhall, reached, in the United States the value of £2,281,000,000, Canada £167,000,000, or equal to two-tenths *per capita* in excess of our production. Mulhall gives the wealth of the United States and other countries in 1880 in pounds sterling, that of the United States being £9,495,000,000, and that of Canada £550,000,000, a *per capita* excess in favor of the United States of five-tenths. This shows a vast development in that country as compared with Canada.

In regard to public debt, notwithstanding the plausible explanation of the Minister of Finance, our position is a most unsatisfactory one. Our debt on the 1st February, 1889, was \$230,370,564, or equal to \$47.33 per head—I think the Minister of Finance made it a few cents less: The debt of the United States on the same date was \$1,121,845,973. The Pacific Railway debts it is fair, under our mode of calculation giving the net debt, to deduct as good and valuable assets. They are about to make some arrangements by which they will amply secure the United States on a 3 per cent. 50-year loan, at which rate the Government can borrow the money. Deducting the Pacific Railway debt, the principal and interest of the United States debt, February 1st, 1889, was \$1,009,982,000, or \$16.82 per head on a basis of population of 60,000,000, against \$47.33 per head in Canada on a basis of 5,000,000. If we add State debts, as the hon. gentleman said we should do, the net amount of which is \$170,000,000, this makes the

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total equal to a *per capita* charge for national and State debts of \$19.67, as against \$47.33 in Canada. That is not a satisfactory condition of things. The hon. gentleman, at great length, compared the expenses of this country with the expenses of the United States. I have prepared some statistics on these heads. I find our debt has increased, since Confederation, \$160,941,923, or three fold. The increase of our debt in the last ten years was \$96,308,495. While our debt increased three fold, the American debt was reduced from \$2,508,151,211, in 1867, down to \$1,121,845,973, February 1st, 1889, without deducting the Pacific Railway assets, which are, in round numbers, \$111,000,000. In the period since 1873 the United States have reduced their debt by \$511,635,306, while during that period we have increased our debt by \$96,000,000. So in the matter of public debt, the comparison is a very unsatisfactory one for this country. Then we were told by the hon. gentleman that the United States pays no judges except a few Supreme Court judges, and has no immigration and quarantine charges, no governors to pay, no militia to sustain, no penitentiaries to keep up, and that if our expenditure had been on the same basis as that of the United States, instead of having a debt to-day, we would have had a surplus of \$45,000,000. I would ask the hon. gentleman how that calculation was worked out. I would ask the hon. gentleman what would have been the position in this country under circumstances such as those encountered in the United States from 1861 to 1864, when a supreme struggle for existence occurred during which the American people accumulated their great debt? Why, this country would have been ruined. The expenses under the following heads in the countries respectively, were as follows:—

United States Pension Charges, 1888	\$ 80,288,508
Per capita, \$1.33	
Canada Pension charges, 1888	120,333
Per capita, 2-4	
United States Military Establishment	33,522,436
Per capita, 51-4	
Canada Militia and Mounted Police	2,136,143
Per capita, 42-7	
United States Naval Establishment	16,926,437
Per capita, 28-2	
Canada Ocean and River Service	211,462
Per capita, 4-2	
United States Congress	5,892,115
Per capita, 9	
Canada Legislature	807,424
Per capita, 16	
United States Judiciary	4,581,828
Per capita, 7-6	
Canadian Administration of Justice	678,814
Per capita, 13½	
United States Foreign Intercourse	1,593,461
Canada, \$20,000	
United States Interest	44,715,007
Per capita, 74½	
Canada Interest	9,823,303
Per capita, \$1.96 4	
United States Custom	219,091,173
Per capita, \$3.65	
Canada	21,105,926
Per capita, \$4.42	
United States Customs and Excise	343,388,044
Per capita, \$5.72	
Canada Customs and Excise	28,177,413
Per capita, \$5.63	
Customs and Excise in U.S., 1838	\$343,388,044
Payment on Public Debt, year ending 1838	112,163,781
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Per capita, \$3.85	231,224,266

It must be borne in mind that the United States, last year, reduced their debt by \$112,163,000. That came out of their excise and customs duties, and that leaves their expenses at \$231,000,000, or a *per capita* expense, aside from the payment of the debt, of \$3.85 per head, as against \$5.63 in Canada. If we add to that, as my friend probably claims we should do, the *per capita* taxation for States of \$1.03 per head it would make for both of those \$4.93 as against \$5.63 in Canada, or still an excess in our case of 70 cents