

CANADA'S FUTURE.

PAPER BY SIR ALAN GALT, K. C. M. G.

The following is the paper read by Sir Alexander Galt before the Colonial Institute, on the evening of the 21st...

In selecting as the subject of this paper the future of the Dominion of Canada, I have no intention of discussing possible changes in its constitution or its political relations to Great Britain...

By the Queen's proclamation the two Provinces of old Canada, now designated Ontario and Quebec, were, on the 1st July, 1867, united with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick under the name of the Dominion of Canada...

THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION.

It may not, in this connection, be inappropriate briefly to notice the powers granted to the people of Canada, and the system under which these powers are exercised...

CHARACTER OF THE POPULATION.

In the composition of her existing population, Canada is also peculiarly favored. Commencing as a French colony, Quebec has now over a million of the descendants of the foremost nation of the Latin race...

jealousies. They were taught to look more to the Mother Country and less to their own exertions than they should have done...

PRESENT OF THE DOMINION.

Let me now very briefly endeavor to convey to you some partial idea of the magnitude of the trust that has been assumed by Canadians in undertaking the colonization and government of the northern half of the continent of North America...

PROGRESS OF THE PROVINCES.

I will now shortly summarize the past progress of the Provinces included in the Atlantic division of Canada. Commencing in 1825 with a population of about 817,400, they have now attained at least four million in number...

DEBT AND ASSETS OF THE DOMINION.

The statement I now make respecting the present position of Canada would, however, be incomplete if reference were omitted to its public debt. And in this connection I may be permitted to notice and correct certain allegations in the article contributed by Mr. Anderson to the "Contemporary Review"...

in no case has delay, nor even extension of time, ever been asked by Canada. Much less has the British taxpayer ever been required to contribute to the payment of either principal or interest...

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes entries for canal system, lighthouses and navigation, acquisition and development, government buildings, and provincial debt.

PUBLIC WORKS—THE CANAL SYSTEM.

Permit me, now, to give you what must necessarily be a very imperfect sketch of the work already achieved, and to show you the persistent and determined efforts your fellow-subjects in Canada have made and are making towards the development of that great country...

THE RAILWAY SYSTEM.

Passing next to the railway system of the Dominion, it permeates the older Provinces from Halifax to Lake Huron, and with its ramifications covers nearly 7,000 miles in length...

THE NORTH-WEST AND TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.

Already, though Winnipeg has only had railway communication with the United States for less than ten years, it has sprung from a population of a few hundred to one of upwards of ten thousand...

FUTURE DESTINY AND RELATIONS OF THE DOMINION.

May I be forgiven if, with such a task before me, I think it unwise to discuss the future of the Canadian Dominion with reference to possibilities that may never arise? Mr. Wm. Clarke, in the article referred to, believes the present position of the country...