

absorbed the small pittance that was intended to support it; and we are now almost without the wherewithal of existence. As stated by the writer of these letters, therefore, "One of three courses will have to be adopted, viz.: either the Province must obtain the means of revenue from the resources within its limits, such as Crown lands, timber limits, minerals, etc., or the Dominion, out of the public treasury, must supply the necessary funds to carry on the machinery of local government and improvements, or lacking these two sources of revenue, the people of the Province will be obliged to submit to direct taxation." As to the last resource, the alternative is too obnoxious to be tolerated. The taxes necessary for municipal and school purposes in a new country like Manitoba are of themselves sufficiently high—not to mention the great amount we have to pay on all imports. Direct taxation would impose a burden upon the people that would materially counteract the natural advantages offered. The second proposition appears to us to be a little better: for, after all, it would be but the binding the Province down to the position of a dependant rather than permitting it to rank as an equal, which is contrary to all ideas of freedom. There appears but one remedy, and that is that the lands of the Province—or at least what remains of them—should be handed over to the Province, to be disposed of in the most advantageous manner, and applied to its necessary uses. If there was ever a doubt as to the advisability of this, the late sale of lands in Winnipeg, undertaken by the Dominion Government, should be proof sufficient that they are incapable of obtaining their value. Had these lands been handled by men who understood their worth, and properly advertised, they would have realized their true value, but such cannot be said of the last abortive attempt, for so badly was the whole affair arranged that scarcely any bidders were to be

found, and the few parcels that were disposed of were sold at prices far below their value. We hope, therefore, to see this matter taken in hand by the Local Legislature at the next meeting of Parliament, and the question made the one of first importance in the election of the new members now about to take place.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

From Rapid City Standard.

With this issue of the STANDARD we publish a supplement containing a series of letters on the present unsatisfactory financial position of the Province. The writer has gone deeply into the subject and his clever dissertation will doubtless do much towards impressing the minds of the public men of the Dominion with the urgent necessity for prompt action. That the revenue now at the disposal of the Government of Manitoba—some \$115,000—is utterly inadequate to meet their requirements, no one can for a moment dispute. Last year the expenditure in the old Province was \$181,320, and this year, with the extension of the boundaries, a very large increase may be expected and must be provided for. At present there is no source from which this extra revenue can be obtained, and unless the Dominion Government is prepared to place us at once in a position of equality with the other Provinces, bankruptcy in a few years is almost inevitable. There is now every prospect of an era of remarkable development for this Province and the North-West Territories, and the interests of the whole Dominion demand that nothing should be allowed to stand in the way of their progress. Should the present unsound financial position of the Province be allowed to continue, there is no telling where the injury may terminate. Those who are doing their utmost to divert the tide of emigration into other channels could have no better argument to use against us than the predicament of the