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July 4, 1872.

THE MONETARY TIMES, AND TRADE REVIEW.

TORONTO, CAN. FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1872.

MUNICIPAL STATISTICS OF ON- TARIO.

The municipal statistics of the Province of Ontario for the year 1869-70 were only published at Ottawa during the recent session of Parliament. Such delay is to be regretted, inasmuch as these returns are of great importance, and throw much light on the progress which the country is making. We hope hereafter they will be more promptly published, but in the meantime we gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity to lay some of the facts contained in those of 1869-70 before our readers.

We find that the total number of acres of land assessed was 19,763,324. This was an increase of 136,422 over the previous year. This must be considered but a moderate increase, for between 1867-8 and 1868-9, the number of assessed acres increased 653,985. The number of rate-payers during the year under consideration was 315,763. A very large part of the return is taken up with a statement of the assets and liabilities of the various municipalities, which are given in detail. The following summary which we have prepared, shows at a glance what the total amount of these items is:—

ASSETS.

Real Estate.....	\$276,993,259
Personal Property	31,724,936
Income.....	4,820,599
Arrears of Taxes.....	1,263,270
Other Assets.....	8,015,390

Total..... \$322,817,354

LIABILITIES.

Debentures	\$11,084,033
M. Loan Fund.....	4,761,487
Interest due.....	1,066,701
Other Liabilities	917,755

Total..... \$17,829,976

This is a rather flattering balance sheet, but it must be borne in mind that the total assets of the Municipalities of Ontario are vastly greater than the above figures represent. These returns simply give the *assessed value*, and it is well known that assessors seldom or never put down the full value of either real or personal property. In not a few countries the aggregate assessment comes to very little over one-half the actual value, as any person would soon ascertain if he undertook to purchase a farm in the localities referred to. In an article on "the Dominion of Canada," which appeared in the *Year Book* for 1871, the value of all the farms of the Dominion was placed at \$672,000,000; horses, cattle, and other live stock, \$150,000,000; and agricultural implements, &c., \$31,000,000. This estimate is doubtless approximately correct. By far the greater part of this wealth lies in the Province of Ontario, and from this fact as well as the other circumstances already adverted to, we might safely set down the assets of this Province at double the assessed value as given above.

The next statement given is of the revenue and expenditure of the various municipalities for the twelve months. They were in the aggregate as follows:—

REVENUE.

Taxes collected.....	\$3,533,985
Raised by loan.....	350,951
Received from Govt.....	105,358
Other revenues	1,659,317
	\$5,649,611

EXPENDITURE.

Interest on debentures.....	\$676,869
Education	596,036
Salaries, &c.....	747,737
Ad. of justice	346,076
Roads and bridges.....	743,780
All other items	2,010,835

\$5,121,333

These figures show that the people of Ontario are not afraid to tax themselves for municipal improvements. Here we have over five and a-half millions of dollars raised in 1869-70! This is over 33½ per cent. of the revenue raised by the whole Dominion from customs and excise, and in addition, of course, to our taxation for Dominion purposes. The amount is a large one for 1,620,280 people to raise voluntarily among themselves by direct taxation.

We commend the foregoing facts to those writers and speakers in some of our sister provinces who allude to the surplus of the

Ontario Government as being evidence that this Province made a better bargain at the time of Confederation than they did. The secret of that surplus, as we have several times shown, is to be found in the fact that all our local improvements are paid for by direct taxation imposed by our Municipal Councils, whilst in most of the other provinces the funds of the local governments are used largely for such purposes. This Province is the most heavily taxed portion of the Dominion, and whatever surplus there is in the Ontario Treasury has been contributed by our own people. When our fellow citizens in the east establish municipal institutions, and raise the cost of their roads, bridges, &c., from local sources as we do, they will find that there will be no necessity to demand "better terms," and that the treasuries of their respective provinces will possess a surplus just as that of Ontario does at the present time.

The census of the Province as taken by the assessors is doubtless tolerably accurate. We are inclined to think that, upon the whole, it would be found, if a proper test were instituted, quite as correct as the general census taken under the direction of the Hon. Mr. Dunkin last year. In this part of the return we find the number of the following species of live stock in Ontario in 1869-70 to have been as follows:—

Number of Cattle	1,003,843
" Horses.....	346,888
" Sheep	1,657,716
" Hogs.....	428,879

The population in that year was set down at 1,324,588, which does not vary a great deal from the general census returns. The actual difference between the two is 295,692, but if we make allowance for the increase of numbers in two years, the difference of the dates at which the two enumerations took place, the disparity between them cannot be great.

Taking these municipal returns as a whole, they afford evidence that Ontario is steadily progressing in wealth. In all the different statistics given, there are evidences of progress and advancement. In some of the municipalities the development is, of course, much greater and more rapid than in others; but the exhibit, as a whole, is pleasing and satisfactory. In the value of real property assessed, Northumberland and Durham take the lead with \$20,675,404, Wellington comes next with \$19,276,150, York third with \$12,115,246, Oxford next with \$10,736,590, and Middlesex close upon its heels with \$10,024,459. Victoria has the largest number of acres assessed, being 1,159,130; Simcoe comes second with 1,095,210, and Grey next with 939,313. In other particulars some of the other coun-