

Wednesday May 17th 1871

of Salt Spring Island is a candidate for the

In giving to the people of the Main-
land a very proper admonition to quali-

The Great Duty of the Nation.

It is the boast of Britons that sun never sets on the dominions of a sovereign; that the possessions over which Victoria rules girdle the globe. The vast possessions are maintained at an annual cost to the Imperial Exchequer of about two and a quarter million sterling. At least so it was written down for 1863; but the cheap and colonial policy of more recent times have reduced that expenditure somewhat. At any rate, it will be safe to put expenditure down at two millions. What use has the nation made of a magnificent domain? Let the following facts and figures answer:—England and Wales, with an area of 58,325 square miles, groan under a population of 23,798, or upwards of three persons to the square mile. In the city of London there are huddled together upon an area of seventy square miles something like three millions of human beings. Compare this with British America. Newfoundland, standing out in the Atlantic and stretching its hands toward Motherland, has a population of three human beings to a square mile. Nova Scotia has 21; New Brunswick 11; Prince Edward Island has 13; Quebec has 6; Ontario has 15; North West has one to every four square miles; British Columbia has about one to every five square miles. It will give a general average of about one soul to every square mile of the whole of British North America. Three hundred souls to the square mile in England and Wales; two hundred and fifty-three souls to the square mile in the United Kingdom; and only one solitary soul to the square mile in British America! It would, indeed, be difficult to conceive of greater extremes of over and under population than these figures represent. Let us glance at some of the results of this unequal distribution of population. In England the poor rates were £10,803,000. Significant 1867, £11,061,000, in 1868. Now that must be over twelve millions. Add these the gross results of benevolent effort and extraordinary aid of every kind and the sum total will not be below twenty millions sterling. This enormous sum may be taken as representing the annual cost of over-population; but it does not represent the whole cost. Probably fifty per cent. would not be too much to add in order to cover the expense involved by disease and crime consequent upon a rank crop of humanity. Here, enough and more than enough to be the Canadian Pacific Railway and working every year in what may be regarded as, at least, an abortive attempt to regulate what is called nature. Surely the great duty of a nation cannot be doubtful. Dirt has been defined to be matter in the wrong place. Pauperism may not improperly be defined as population in the wrong place. It is at once the highest and most pleasing duty of the British nation to sweep out the foul blot of pauperism by proper distribution of population. The Dominion of Canada, with its one solitary soul to every square mile of territory, is stretching out its arms to England, and crying for population with which to fill up its waste places. England, putting forth a moderate effort, by devoting even a small portion of what she is now squandering in an attempt to regulate pauperism, towards a less scheme of colonization, could free herself of the great weight of the nation, which would, at the same time, create a second self on this continent. And not this a work worthy of a great nation? To transform the festering pits of pauperized humanity of the old empire into the thrifty and prosperous population of the new, of whom it might be said, quoting the beautiful words of Shakspeare, that—

Content sits smiling on the cheek of age.

And, if Britain will not awake to this great duty, if she will not take advantage of this her great opportunity, of the century's New Zealander may yet be seen perched on a broken arch over London Bridge. Let it be the mission of Canada to arouse her; and let mother and child unite in one magnificent, god-like work of building up a great and prosperous empire on this continent out of material now going to waste at home. Let it to be done and there will no longer be room to doubt the destiny of the New Dominion! Let this be done, and there will be an end of all quibble about the ability of Canada to successfully accept her obligations and fulfil her great destiny. Let this be done, and the nation will no longer have need of fortifications and standing armies. Her firm men will guard her coasts; and her yeomanry will protect her homes.

—Wednesday May 11

Director STRANDBY—Passengers who came by the Pacific were told that there would be