

to endeavour to destroy the credit both of the Canadian Government and of the Company, its Canadian opponents describe it as "a gigantic swindle," and profess to believe that the profits will be enormous. It will scarcely be denied by any one but Mr. Goldwin Smith, that whatever may be the merits or demerits of the Pacific Railway scheme, Canada alone must bear the responsibility, and enjoy the benefit, or suffer the loss, that may result from the undertaking. The two great works already noticed are those more particularly referred to by Mr. Goldwin Smith; but the cost of the great ship canals, the enlargement of which was provided for by the Confederation Act, as well as the Intercolonial Railway, forms a considerable portion of the Canadian debt, and most assuredly the Imperial authorities have never interfered with those works, which, though costly, have far more than repaid the country for all that has been expended on them. There is a curious passage in the paper under consideration, which may be cited here:—"To the expenditure on Canadian public works in general, a percentage may be said to have been added, by deduction from the line of commercial advantage, in the interest of imperial policy. Of this the Rideau Canal is an example. It may well be doubted whether the author of the foregoing passage understood the subject on which he wrote. The Rideau Canal was constructed some sixty years ago by Great Britain, at her own expense, avowedly as a military work. It was projected soon after the last war in the United States, and many years after completion was handed over to Canada, merely to save the cost of maintenance. What bearing it has on the charge that Imperialism has put Canada to great expense it is difficult to comprehend. Again, it is charged that the Act of Confederation has given Canada "a needless, complicated, and expensive form of government." The answer is simple. Not only was the Federal system established at the request of the Canadian people, but the seven provinces, after fourteen years trial, prefer to be separate. Surely their wishes ought to prevail rather than those of Mr. Goldwin Smith. There are many who believe that it would be a wise policy for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Island to unite and form one government, and who are likewise of opinion that much expense would be saved if all the Provinces would follow the example of Ontario, and abolish the Legislative Councils. What end is to be gained by discussing such questions for the benefit of the people of England? Surely Mr. Goldwin Smith would not wish the Imperial Parliament to compel the Provinces either to unite or to abolish their Second Chambers. In connection with this subject, it will not be irrelevant to cite the opinion of the Speaker of the Ontario Legislature. That gentleman, during a recent visit to the United States, was interviewed, according to modern custom, and his answers to the interrogatories put to him occupy a large space in a Chicago newspaper. Among the numerous subjects to which his attention was called, are some which have been treated by Mr. Goldwin