

commodities to market at the lowest rates. Towards the construction of these various railways, the Government and municipalities of Canada have directly contributed nearly £ 40,000,000 sterling, of which the government of the province of Quebec alone has given £ 3,000,000 and consequently for a time crippled its provincial revenues. The average value of the receipts of these roads is now about £ 6,700,000, and since 1876 the capital stock has increased from £ 67,000,000 to £ 112,000,000 in 1885. Canada has now a railway system whose total mileage doubles that of Spain and is greater than that of all the South American countries which she founded in the days when she was supreme in the new world. France who established a colony on the banks of the St. Lawrence with the hope of building up a Great Empire in North America sees that her dream has been realized by her ancient rival and that the child of her bosom has under British auspices literally solved the problem of finding a new route to the riches of Cathay. With all her wealth and enterprise France has only some seven thousand more miles of railway than the Dominion of Canada. The Great Empire of Russia which in extent of territory may be compared with Canada has only five thousand more miles in operation. The mileage of Canada is double that of Italy, and nearly equal to that of Austria-Hungary. These are decidedly remarkable results to have been achieved by a country which was, a few years ago, simply a geographical expression, almost unknown to European nations outside of France and England. They have been achieved, however, through the necessities of her position. Without such facilities for trade and intercourse, a country of the great length of Canada would soon find itself left behind in the race of competition on this continent.

Anyone who travels over Canada will see abundant signs of the prosperity of the people. Though there is not in the Dominion the greath wealth of the United States — though there are no Vanderbilts, no Goulds, no Mackays or California millionaires, the people generally enjoy a fair amount of comfort and have in many cases become moderately rich. Nowhere do we come across those scenes of poverty which are the saddest spectacles which a Canadian or American can witness in his visits to the crowded communities of the old world. If a man cannot make a comfortable home for himself and family in Canada, it is because he is idle or dissipated or is one of those unluckly, shiftless people who never get along in the world. In Canada there is a tendency as in the United States, especially among the Irish, to congregate in the large towns