

it is constructed. This again will depend upon the rate of immigration. A table has been put into the hands of Sir John Macdonald, showing that there will be 550,000 immigrants in the course of the next ten years. The *Globe* thinks it not extravagant to expect a million within a shorter period. Lord Beaconsfield overshoots them both. We speak advisedly in saying that persons thoroughly well-qualified to judge are far less sanguine. There can be no certainty at present, the most recent reports showing that the country has as yet been very imperfectly explored, while much depends on the price of wheat, which is now pouring into the English market from several quarters, including India. Ten years hence, perhaps, experience will have struck the balance between the advantages and the disadvantages of the North-West—its fruitfulness on the one side; its remoteness, its grasshoppers, and the rigour of its climate on the other. It must be borne in mind that the golden estimates are those of optimists, who were just as sanguine before they even knew that the country contained coal.

That fancy and temper can play their part in these calculations as well as arithmetic, may be seen by a comparison of the language of the *Globe* one day with its language on the next:—

“The Thunder Bay branch, 404 miles long, will be completed, without objection from any one, in 1863, and all admit that the 900 miles from Selkirk to the Rocky Mountains should be pushed on as rapidly as may be necessary to induce settlement. It would not indicate extravagant hope to say that 1,000,000 people will be in the North-West Territories by the time that the 1,300 miles already considered have been constructed. But let us say that only 500,000 people are then in the North-West. If they contribute to the Dominion treasury in the same proportion as the people of the other Provinces, they will increase the revenue by \$3,000,000 a year. The 1,300 miles of railway we treat of will certainly not cost

“Sir John’s calculation to show that \$71,305,000 will have accrued to the treasury from the next ten years’ sales of North-West lands reminds one of the fabled milkmaid who proposed to sell her pailful of milk for so much and buy eggs the chickens of which would sell for enough to pay for a hog, which would breed enough little pigs to sell for the price of a cow, which in a very short time would breed calves, which would soon grow up to cowhood, and by breeding in their turn enable her to buy a farm and establish a very extensive dairy. We are not going to deny that 750,000 people may settle in the North-West during the next ten years, but if so many go there under the present regulations, it is safe to say that