

purposes of the one or two States of the Union which would be constituted out of the Maritime Provinces, in case of such annexation.

G:—It might be admitted that in the present straitened condition of the credit of the Dominion of Canada, it would be better for them to receive in cash the entire proportion due from the people of the Maritime Provinces, to be applied by the Dominion to the completion of its railway system, or to a sinking fund for the ultimate payment of a part of its debt, than to retain this far distant, isolated, and discontented part of its present domain.

H:—It would doubtless be agreed that, in case of such annexation of the Maritime Provinces to the United States, there would be no further migration of the people from these Provinces, of any importance. On the contrary, the cultivation of the large area of fertile land, for the products of which no market can be found at present, and development of the mineral resources which would then ensue—would furnish occupation not only for the present population, but for a large increase. Activity and enterprise would rapidly take the place of stagnation and lack of employment, with corresponding increase of population.

I:—It would doubtless be agreed that the additional cost of government, which would be incurred by the national government of the United States, would be a trifle. On the other hand, under the present system of taxation in the United States, the contribution of each inhabitant is approximately six dollars per head. This may be reduced by prospective reduction to five dollars per head. Assuming one million of the population to be immediately added by the annexation of the Maritime Provinces, their contribution to the revenue of the United States would be approximately five million dollars a year. The contribution of the increase of population would more than pay the interest of the forty or fifty million dollars expended for the purchase. Therefore the net proceeds of taxation each year might be applied to the reduction of the principal of such debt, at the rate of \$5,000,000 a year. If we paid the outside sum, fifty million dollars, it would be recovered by the taxation in ten years.

J:—With respect to the relation of these Provinces to Great Britain; the *first* benefit would be the entire removal of any cause of difficulty or danger of war growing out of the fisheries. Great Britain would next be benefited by the increase of traffic with the people of these Provinces; their purchasing power is now very small; but with their increasing prosperity, activity, and rapid gain in population and wealth, their traffic with Great Britain would become equal to that of other parts of the United States; and as well known, the people of the United States are the largest customers of Great Britain.

In short, if this proposition is considered purely on business grounds, it may be difficult to find any objection to it. It would profit the people of the Province; it would relieve the people of the remainder of the Dominion of Canada; it would profit the people of the United States; it would save Great Britain a vexatious and dangerous question, and it would benefit her interests by extending or increasing the market for British goods.