

debts of each Province have been contracted for almost precisely similar purposes, viz., the building of great public works. The debts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are represented by their railroads, that of Canada by canals and subsidies to her vast railway system. It has been said that the debt of Canada is entirely unproductive, while that of Nova Scotia already makes a small interest return, which will every year become greater. This statement is not correct. The receipts from the railways of Canada last year were about \$11,000,000; the working expenses a little over \$7,000,000; leaving a surplus capable of paying a dividend of three per cent on the capital. The receipts from the Nova Scotia railway last year were \$183,954, and the expenditure \$159,069, leaving a surplus of nearly \$25,000, representing a dividend considerably less than one per cent. In returns, therefore, as well as in rapidity of progress, the superiority is on the side of Canada, and consequently the advantage in our favor.

I will now bring into juxtaposition the revenues of the respective Provinces. The revenue of Canada, from all sources, amounted last year to \$11,000,000, being equal to \$3.55 to each person. The revenue of Nova Scotia during the same period reached \$1,517,306, being equal to \$4.00 to each person. The customs and excise revenue of Canada were at the end of 1865 \$6,963,716; that of Nova Scotia \$1,047,891. It has been stated again and again that the tariff, or, in other words, the taxation, in Canada, is oppressively high compared to that in Nova Scotia. The above figures, taken from official returns, set this question at rest; for they show that, while in customs and excise the taxation is equal to \$2.22 per head in Canada, it is equal to \$2.80 in Nova Scotia. The conclusion so generally come to in this Province, that taxation is much higher than in Nova Scotia, has arisen from the fact that their tariffs are constructed on entirely different principles. Some articles in Canada paying 15 and 20 per cent. tariff, which in Nova Scotia are taxed only 10 per cent., while a great number of articles charged ten per cent. in Nova Scotia are admitted duty free into Canada. Taken in the aggregate, however, taxation in Canada, instead of being excessive, as so persistently represented, is on the whole somewhat lower than in Nova Scotia.