

THE "HUMAN TIDES."

NOW that spring has fairly set in, the human tides of population will begin to stream in from Europe to this continent. It is astonishing the numbers which yearly set out from Ireland, from Germany and from Norway, for America, anxious to leave the hard life in which their lot was first cast, and to find happy homes, peace and plenty, towards the region of the setting sun. It is a fact that Canada has never received anything like a reasonable share of the immigrants who come from abroad, and we are anxious to know whether the Government of the Dominion has taken any steps to influence settlement among us during this season. We understand that instructions have been given to continue the publication of the *Emigration Gazette*, which is so far good; but much more is needed. If any large number are to be induced to cast their lot with us in our new Dominion, we think that some active agent must be employed in Europe, to set forth the advantages of this country. There can be no doubt that there is no part of America more attractive to settlers than Canada is at present. We have abundant room for eight or ten millions more population. They can settle on farming lands, they can go into mining, or into manufactures, which are increasing at such a pace as to require a large supply of skilled labour. Living is cheaper and taxes lower than in the United States, and there is no hindrance in the way of any industrious man making a competency in a reasonable amount of time. These advantages, we think, the Government should make more energetic efforts to make known abroad. We are decidedly of opinion that this has not been done as it ought to have been, in days gone by, and now that our country is entering upon a new and more prosperous career, special efforts should be made in this direction. Nothing would so build up the Dominion, so rapidly simplify the question of defence, and render secure our future political independence, as the turning of these human tides more towards this country. This is an object well worthy of the earnest efforts of the Government, and we hope to see some successful endeavours put forth during this season. The present is a golden opportunity for the Dominion in this respect, let it not pass unimproved.

A WORD IN SEASON.

THERE is one feature about the new public works which Canada is about to construct which is far from gratifying—their unproductive character. This is greatly to be regretted, but no amount of regret can overcome the difficulty. We have first the Intercolonial Railway, and there is but little hope that in less than twenty years' time it will afford any reasonable return for the money invested. That railway will almost certainly cost \$20,000,000, very likely more. Were it the case that this important work would make a reasonable return on this sum, Canada might look forward with hope to its completion. It would add to our public debt, but then it would be no drag upon our finances. It would develop the resources of the Dominion and doubly repay the expense incurred. But with the prospect before us of the Intercolonial hardly paying running expenses—the work cannot be entered upon with much spirit. Then we have the proposed Fortifications; these will also be unproductive. The present estimated cost is \$5,000,000. That Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, and Paris or London, can have suitable defensive works erected for that sum, we hardly think probable; in short, we would not wonder to see it doubled before the works are completed. We may also add, for some time at least, the North-west Territory to this list. We take it that this fine tract of country will soon form part of the Dominion, whether the recent address of Parliament is acceded to or not. But under any circumstances, the rights of the Hudson's Bay Company must be liquidated, and few anticipate that any less sum than \$5,000,000 will answer for that purpose. This investment will, in the end, prove a good one; but for several years at least, must entail a considerable burden on our exchequer. Besides the first cost, there will be the opening up of communication with the Territory, the cost of the administration of justice, the salary of a representative of the Dominion, and other "pulls" upon the public purse. We do not desire to take ground against these expenditures. Neither the first nor third could be dispensed with, whatever may be said regarding the construction of Fortifications to protect our chief cities. The Intercolonial Railway is, undoubtedly, a necessary part of Confederation.

It has been well observed that "we could have had no Confederation without the railway and no railway without Confederation." We would also be lacking in public spirit if we did not secure the great Northwest whenever we can best obtain it. Possibly the Imperial Government would not have regarded Confederation so very favourably, but for the belief that thereby we could be induced to go into the Fortification business; in short, the creation of our new Dominion seems to have rendered these heavy expenditures—which will certainly raise our public debt to nearly \$100,000,000—unavoidable. Our object in alluding to them at this time is not to object to the Government proceeding with them, but to point out clearly and distinctly the very important, but not gratifying, fact, that the greater portion of the thirty or forty millions of dollars we are on the eve of spending, will be almost totally unproductive in the way of dividends or corresponding returns. We think public attention should be called—and pointedly called—to this not encouraging feature of the proposed expenditure. And for these reasons: That our rulers should be rendered alive to the necessity of not multiplying such investments, that none should be made which are not absolutely necessary; secondly, that those which cannot be avoided should be made as inexpensive as they possibly can be; and last, but not least, that our Government should be kept in mind of the danger of running up the debt of the Dominion to such undue proportions as to jeopardize the soundness of our financial position. The Dominion will, we readily admit, receive some advantage from the expenditure of so many millions within a few years. It will serve to make prosperous times, to attract both skilled and unskilled labourers amongst us. The Intercolonial will, also, do much to open up a large tract of country, some of which is well fitted for agricultural purposes, and to some extent will facilitate commerce between the eastern and western parts of our country. Whilst acknowledging these advantages, however, we have thought it our duty to the country—we have thought it would have a healthful effect—and be in the interests of our New Dominion, to point out the unproductive nature of these expenditures, and suggest a few wholesome lessons therefrom. We hope our legislators will ponder them.

MR. ROSE'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

IN making his statement, Mr. Rose said he would, as being most convenient, first state the probable result of the operations of the current year, ending June 30th, 1868; then the position of the floating debt, and the changes in it since December last, with a few words in explanation of the actual position of the various provinces; then, for the Dominion, the requirements for the year 1868-69, and the means by which it was proposed to meet those requirements; and, finally he would refer to the contemplated additions in future years to the burdens of the country and the means to meet those additional requirements.

In December last he had stated the probable expenditure for the current fiscal year at \$16,226,801, of which \$1,925,000 was for permanent works, leaving as the anticipated ordinary expenditure of the year \$14,301,801. The estimates in detail laid before the House showed an estimated expenditure of \$17,265,019 to which had to be added supplementary estimates of \$71,000, making a total of \$17,336,019, instead of \$16,226,801 as estimated in December. From this, however, deduction for arrears paid on account of the late Province of Canada, \$814,357, and for expenditure which would not take place before the 1st of July next, \$205,100, would reduce the expenditure to \$16,316,562. From this was to be deducted for capital and redemption \$1,863,498, and also arrears of the late Province of Canada still dependent on the vote of the House, \$131,704, leaving finally \$14,321,360 as the ordinary expenditure of the year.

The receipts Mr. Rose estimated as follows:—

From Customs.....	\$9,000,000
" Excise.....	2,570,000
" Miscellaneous Sources.....	4,725,500

Total estimated Revenue.....\$14,695,500

showing an anticipated surplus of \$374,140.

In December, he stated the Floating Debt to be \$6,911,901, including the amount then in course of remittance to the Financial Agents in England to meet the January interest. Two items not included, \$100,000 to the Court of Chancery which had been deposited at that time, and a balance on subsidy account to the various Provinces of \$146,775, would

bring the Floating Debt in December to \$7,158,676, or, deducting Bank balances of \$3,303,869, a balance of floating debt of \$3,854,807 to be provided for. The balance due the English Agents had now been reduced to \$510,532, to the Bank of Montreal \$2,500,000 and to the various Provinces \$591,767. The floating debt on the 15th April, was \$3,602,299, or deducting Bank balances of \$1,893,523, a net floating debt of \$1,708,776. The amount due the English fiscal agents had been reduced by the sale of Nova Scotia Bonds, endorsed by the Dominion, to the extent of \$1,002,053 and the floating debt has also been reduced by the sale of Dominion stock to the extent of \$1,600,000. With regard to the portion of the floating debt which still existed, Mr. Rose hoped it would soon be discharged by the receipts from the several sources he had indicated in December, and that in six months the Government would be under no obligation to the Bank or the Fiscal Agents. Some progress had been made in negotiations with the Great Western Railway for realization of the considerable indebtedness of that corporation; and action had also been taken with regard to the indebtedness of the Bank of Upper Canada. There was a measure now before the House, which would put the Government in possession of a considerable sum as deposited from Insurance Companies. A considerable sum would also be realized by the Post Office Savings Bank. It was stated that there existed a feeling in the country that Government was taking possession of too large an amount of money needed for commerce. Mr. Rose could assure the House that such was not the case. Very little of the money invested in Dominion stock could be looked upon as withdrawn from the capital of the country, the deposits in Post Office Savings Banks would only have lain idle and unproductive, if not so invested, and the deposits of Insurance Companies would mainly come from abroad.

Touching the financial condition of the several Provinces, Mr. Rose stated that the debt of Nova Scotia on the 1st of July last was \$7,435,285, being \$564,715 less than the debt of \$8,000,000 with which it was entitled to enter the Union, but beyond this it was found that its obligations amounted to a very considerable sum in excess of \$8,000,000, the total present debt being about \$9,400,000. Under the terms of the Union Act, the Dominion became responsible for all the engagements of the Provinces, no matter whether they exceeded the specified amount with which they were to enter the Union or not. To meet the current engagements of Nova Scotia, the Dominion had to provide the sum of \$3,019,628 since July 1st, last, a portion of which was met by the sale of bonds. Now the total receipts from Nova Scotia up to date of last accounts, exclusive of the sale of its bonds in England, were \$1,159,238, and the payments on account of Nova Scotia, exclusive of the amounts realized by the sale of bonds, were \$1,821,222, or an excess of payments over receipts of \$661,924.

The debt of New Brunswick at the time of the Union was \$5,923,422, leaving, in order to make up its quota of \$7,000,000, a balance to be paid to it of \$1,076,578; but the engagements of that Province, in addition to the above debt, were found to amount to \$2,128,358, so that there would be about one million dollars to be provided for by the Dominion over and above the seven millions. The present condition of the accounts of New Brunswick was as follows:—

Receipts up to present time.....	\$7,068,888
Cash on hand at time of Union.....	275,542
	\$1,036,210
Payments.....	1,893,940

Showing an excess of payments over receipts of.....\$857,730
The precise condition of the accounts between the Dominion and the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario it was impossible to state, but it was generally estimated that their debt would exceed the \$62,500,000, the quota with which they came easily into the Union, by about \$8,700,000. The settlement of the debt between the two Provinces, he would not say anything about at present, as it was the subject of arbitration.

The Minister of Finance next proceeded to state what the estimated expenditure and revenue for the year ending June 30, 1869, would be. He distinguished between ordinary and extraordinary expenditure, the latter being for extensive works going on in the Dominion, and which was fairly to be met by means of loans. The ordinary expenditure for the year 1868-69 then would amount to \$14,041,161, including interest and sinking fund on possible expenditure for the Intercolonial Railway and Fortifications. For extraordi-