

indeed, and will yearly become, under good government, more extended and valuable. Let me say that it serves two purposes—one, well understood, the drying of wet lands; the other, perhaps still more useful, the softening and enriching of hard clay lands, of which Ontario has much—land apparently dry but apt to “bake.”

I will also say a word on what I—myself an old settler in by-gone days—would like well to say more on—our progress in backwoods clearing. As you know, Ontario has no longer her vast blocks of rich land, covered with solid beech and maple. These have been mostly occupied, but we have still a vast governmental territory, with a great deal of very good land here and there—land which in Europe would yield high rents. Government is doing much to explore and settle this. They have spent nearly three-quarters of a million on what we call colonization roads, piercing these wildernesses in all directions. Over a thousand miles of these have been made since 1871. This represents a vast amount of settlement—of cleared townships—farms where forest was—villages where had been no inhabitant.

In the matter of education much has been spent, and much secured in return. Since 1871 there has been spent on common and separate schools, high schools, collegiate institutes, libraries, maps, &c., over two and three-quarter millions of dollars. For this, matters are so arranged that now every child in the land can, free of charge, obtain an education which twenty or thirty years ago none but the rich could secure.

Altogether, it is calculated that—of matters which might rank as surplus distribution, things which, if the government had kept its surplus cash in the bank, it might have avoided paying, or to a great extent avoided—there have been nearly eighteen millions of dollars spent in Ontario since 1871, which, added to the railway expenditure encouraged and often produced by government aid, give the vast amount of ~~thirty~~ millions of dollars spent in Ontario during the last few years—an expenditure the most opportune and most beneficial, diffusing money at the best time for the workmen and the best time for obtaining value in the work, of any recorded, perhaps in American—certainly in Canadian—history.