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## DOMINION REVENUE.

The deficit in the revenue of the Dominion for 1879-80, is now ascertained to be little less than \$1,700,000. It is estimated that \$1,300,000 was received, by anticipation, in the previous year; so that, had no part of the revenue been anticipated, the deficit would have been something less than \$400,000. With an equal expenditure—the amount was about \$24,500,000—the same sources of revenue would, for another year, leave a deficit of about \$400,000. It remains to be seen whether the alterations made in the tariff last session will fill this gap and prevent another deficit. In submitting his first tariff to the House, Sir Leonard Tilley confidently predicted that we should see no more deficits. We had our doubts, at the time. This new deficit shows that no government could afford to reduce the customs duties, as a whole, whatever alterations it might be possible to make. The tariff is before everything else a revenue tariff, and the difficulty is that it does not produce revenue enough.

## CANADA'S COMPETITORS FOR EMIGRANTS.

Canada is not the only country which is being visited by delegates from tenant farmers in England. New Zealand is trying the same experiment. We have received a copy of the report of Mr. S. Grant and Mr. J. S. Foster, delegates to that colony from the tenant farmers of Lincolnshire, and it is desirable to see what are the rival attractions which that country offers.

But before dealing with this report, let us take a general survey of the population, trade, and public debt of New Zealand. There is probably no country in the world of which the foreign trade is so great as that of New Zealand, in proportion to the population; and it is quite certain that no country having so small a population can boast the luxury of so large a debt. The

census of 1879 makes the white population only 414,124; and the exports and imports are together over \$70,000,000. The following are the imports and exports for the last seven years, in pounds sterling:—

|            | Imports.   | Exports.   |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1873 ..... | £6,241,062 | £5,521,800 |
| 1874 ..... | 8,121,811  | 5,152,143  |
| 1875 ..... | 8,029,172  | 5,475,844  |
| 1876 ..... | 6,905,171  | 5,673,465  |
| 1877 ..... | 6,973,418  | 6,329,251  |
| 1878 ..... | 8,755,663  | 6,915,525  |
| 1879 ..... | 8,393,230  | 5,742,916  |

There must be something exceptional in that country in which every inhabitant contributes \$169 to the external trade. But the burthen may be too heavy for the broadest back; and however great the capacity of production of the people of New Zealand, it is quite certain that they will not be able to carry a load of debt amounting to \$150,000,000. The colony must go through the process of national bankruptcy. These facts cannot well be left out of the account by any one seriously considering the advisability of emigrating to New Zealand.

On a small scale, New Zealand is a country of great possibilities. The total area is only about 64,000,000 acres; of which, the delegates tell us, "12,000,000 are suitable for agriculture, about 30,000,000 are better suited for pastoral purposes, and about 20,000,000 acres, of which the area when cleared will make good land, are covered with forest." The whole country has a mountainous appearance; and one-tenth of the north island consists of mountains. In regard to climate, the delegates regard New Zealand as having great advantages for agricultural purposes over most other colonies. Occasional strong gales of hot wind are admitted to form a drawback, besides sometimes doing considerable injury to growing crops; and the warm winters, in the north island, engender multitudes of insect plagues. In the south island, clear frosty days give a charm to winter not enjoyed in the north. Clearing the woodlands must be an enterprise compared to which the removal of a Canadian forest is mere sport. In what is called "heavy bush," the trees, four or five feet in diameter, "stand as thick as they can grow." But there are fern lands for those whom the forbidding woods appal. It sounds strange to hear that, in that country of dear labor, an acre of woodland can be cleared for £3 stg.; but this is perhaps not "thick bush." Cattle fatten much more readily on grass and clover in New Zealand than in England, owing, the delegates think, to the continuance of warm dry weather. Clover grows with astonishing rapidity, and possesses greater fattening properties than in England. "Some fields would fatten a bullock and a half to the acre in summer

and almost one in winter." Common roads are wretched during the winter rains; the southern part of the country being under the influence of the sub-tropical rain fall.

New Zealand wheat is said to be of the best quality; but if cut too soon it is soft and incapable of bearing a long sea voyage. One farmer, living in Canterbury, sent nearly 11,000,000 bushels to England last year, the total charges on which, including freight, commission and warehousing, were about 1s. 6½d. per bushel. The net price received in Lyttleton, N. Z., was 4s. 7d., or about \$1.10 cents a bushel. The freight to Lyttleton, near which place the wheat was grown, was about 6s. a bushel, which, with the exporter's profit, has to be deducted from what the farmer received. Freights were abnormally low, and have since risen about two-fifths. All things considered, the delegates—and this is the point of interest for us—do not think that the people of New Zealand "can compete with America in the production of cheap wheat;" at the same time, they do believe that these antipodean farmers "can afford to sell their grain at a considerably cheaper rate than it has hitherto been necessary for them to do." A like admission with regard to cattle disposes of two items in which the question of competition was before doubtful. If the carrying of frozen meat so great a distance should become a facile process, regularly worked out, the conditions might be altered.

New Zealand is the paradise of sheep farming. Here Canada can never hope to compete with her. Sheep runs comprising thousands of acres are managed at very trifling cost. The principal remuneration of the grazier is found in the wool; the carcass often being of little more than nominal value. Sheep raising, in New Zealand, brings the maximum of profit for the minimum of labor. Except in the mustering and clipping seasons, two men suffice for the care of several thousand sheep; and clipping costs per hundred from £1 15s. to £1 17s. 6d. We hear of 30,000 merino sheep on a single run; the fleeces averaging 6 lbs. 9 oz. in the grease. The young ewes may be worth 5s. to 5s. 6d. stg. each. It is doubtful whether, in any other occupation, the product is as great for the amount of labor expended. Here we have some insight into the secret why so few people, in that colony, are able to sustain so large an external trade. The imports have of course been swelled by materials for railway construction, which was carried to an extent out of all proportion to the resources of the country; but the exports, which bore a fair proportion to the imports, are certainly cause for wonder.

Even on the arable land labor seems to be uncommonly productive. The double plough,