

the people of the Dominion had deposited in our monetary institutions, at the date mentioned, not very far from \$65 000 000*! The rapid manner in which this immense sum has accumulated from about \$20,000,000 in 1860, is a significant indication of the progress and increasing wealth of the country.

The population of the Dominion is larger than was the population of the United States when they asserted and achieved their independence. Their numbers were then about 3,000,000; the inhabitants of the four Provinces, if the rate of increase during this decade has equalled the last, numbered 4,149,959 at the beginning of this year, and will be 4,283,103 by the 1st of January, 1871. The population of the whole of British America is calculated to be 4,701,369, and if the past rate of increase be maintained, it will be 6,441,000 in 1881, 8,825 000 in 1891, and 12,000,000 by the close of the century.

If we turn to the records of our annual commerce, we find no evidence of dullness or stagnation—but cheering signs of progress. Nothing more surely indicates the true condition of a country than its trade returns, and Canada has no cause to fear such a test; indeed, when numbers are considered, we have some reason to feel proud of the extent to which our commerce with foreign countries has swelled. Confirmation of this will be found in the following statement of our total trade (both imports and exports) during each year since 1850, the figures being those of Ontario and Quebec alone up to the date of Confederation, after which those of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are included:—

Year.	Total Trade.	Year.	Total Trade.
1850	\$29,703,497	1870	\$ 68,955,093
1851	34,805,461	1861	76,119,843
1852	35,594,100	1862	79,398,067
1853	55,782,739	1863	81,458,235
1854	63,548,515	1864† year	34,586,054
1855	64,274,630	1864-5	80,644,951
1856	75,631,404	1865-6	96,479,738
1857	66,437,222	1866-7	94,791,860
1858	52,550,461	1867-8	119,797,879
1859	58,299,242	1868-9 †	119,411,514

It will be observed by these statistics that the volume of our annual trade increased from \$29,000,000 in 1850, to \$68,000,000 in 1860—more than doubled in ten years and has nearly doubled again since 1860 having amounted to \$119,411,514 in 1868-9. Adding on the amount of coin and bullion imported and exported (which is excluded from all the above returns) the gross transactions of the Dominion last year were over \$127,000,000. The returns of 1869-70, when completed, will be still larger. A statement, just given to the press, of the imports and exports for the eleven months ending May 31st, shows a total of \$124,800,650, so we may now safely assert our commerce to be over \$130,000,000 per annum! These figures most eloquently tell their own tale, and manifest rapid growth in commercial importance.

Few countries possess better means of transportation—both by water and by rail. The heart of the Dominion rests in the lap of the finest fresh-water lakes on the globe, whose great outlet, the St. Lawrence, passes with majestic flow through our territory to the ocean; the North-West contains numerous lakes and rivers not less grand and beautiful, if at present less known and appreciated; whilst the front of the Dominion rests on the Atlantic, whence our fleets sail into every navigable sea. The natural navigation has been improved by an elaborate and efficient canal system, whose aggregate length is 227 miles, and whose construction cost close upon \$20,000,000. When the projected enlargement of these canals is carried out, the St. Lawrence must become the chief highway for the products of the great West to reach the ocean, and it requires no effort of imagination to picture the time when the immense production of the interior will crowd every avenue of transportation, and the sparkling waters of this noble river will be whitened with sails.

Our railway facilities are abundant. With the exception of the American Pacific, we can boast, we believe, of possessing the longest single line of railroad, and we are acquainted with no country so sparsely populated which has exhibited greater enterprise in the construction of these useful works. Twenty years ago (1850) we had only 55 miles of railway in all the Provinces, but according to the last published returns† we now possess over 20 different

* The latest returns procurable by the writer, one of which is over a year old, are as follows:—Deposits in Ontario and Quebec banks, \$50,229,788; in Building Societies, \$1,322,269; in Savings Banks, \$6,450,971; and in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick banks, \$3,943,130—Total, \$61,976,858.

† In 1867-8 and '68-9, the returns for the lower Provinces are added, as also the estimated short returns at the various ports. In all the other years no short returns are added.

‡ Miscellaneous Statistics of Canada for 1867-8. These are the last returns given to the public at the time we write. It is censurable that the publication of such statistics is so long delayed..