

that the debt incurred for the redemption of the seigniorial tenure, which amounts to three millions, was not included in the general debt.

HON. SOLICITOR GENERAL LANGEVIN

—The Minister of Finance stated the whole debt, in his speech at Sherbrooke, at \$67,263,994. The amount of the debt is \$75,578,000; but it is necessary to deduct the Sinking Fund and cash in bank, \$7,132,068, reducing it to \$68,445,953; the Minister of Finance also deducted the Common School Fund, which amounts to \$1,181,958, and he arrived at the result I have just given, that is to say, that the real debt of Canada is \$67,263,994. I do not give all the items of the public debt, for I do not think it devolves upon me to prove that the calculations of the Finance Minister are not correct; that is the task of those who accuse him of error; and the Public Accounts are there to shew that the Finance Minister has stated nothing but the truth. The honorable member for Hochelaga has manifested excessive anxiety respecting the financial position of the Confederation; but in this case also we have the same guarantees as for that of the local governments. He asserted, for instance, that Newfoundland was too poor to contribute to the revenue of the Confederation, and that, in place of receiving anything from that province, we shall be compelled to send down money to prevent the people of the island from perishing by cold. The honorable gentleman is, nevertheless, well aware that Newfoundland has a large revenue, a revenue of \$480,000, and that its expenses are less than its income. Newfoundland will receive its share from the Federal chest, but it will also contribute to the general revenue. While I am considering this portion of the honorable gentleman's speech, I must admit that it is the strongest argument in behalf of Confederation, from the standpoint of the Lower Provinces, that could be brought forward; and, for my part, I desire to see thousands of copies of his speech sent to those provinces, for his object clearly is to shew that the measure would be entirely to their advantage. He has attempted to shew that they will have a larger revenue than they have at present; but he omitted to state that Lower Canada would have \$200,000 over and above her expenses. He knows perfectly well that the total revenue of the provinces forms a sum of \$14,223,320, for 1864, and that the total expenditure amounted only to \$13,350,832, so that there is a surplus of \$872,488, apart from the revenue from increase of im-

ports in 1864. The financial position is therefore highly favorable for the formation of a Confederation. The honorable member for Hochelaga stated that New Brunswick would have a surplus of \$34,000 over its expenditure, and he complains, upon that ground, of the subsidy of \$63,000 it is proposed to pay that province during ten years. But every one is aware that the subsidy is to be paid because that province gives up all its revenues to the Federal Government, except that derived from its export duty on timber; that was the reason its delegates insisted on the payment of the subsidy during ten years, and they were right. The honorable member also stated that Prince Edward Island was to receive \$48,000 more than its expenses. But how comes it then that Prince Edward Island has hitherto exhibited reluctance? It must be that that province takes a different view from the honorable member. The truth, however, is that Prince Edward Island, like the other provinces, was treated with justice and equity by the Quebec Conference, that its local requirements were considered, and that a sufficient revenue to provide for them was awarded to it. The honorable member for Hochelaga, who spoke in English, took that opportunity to make a violent appeal to the members from Upper Canada, and told them that there would be enormous imposts, and that two-thirds of the revenue and of the taxes would be paid by them. He did well to speak in English, for I am certain that he would not make the same assertion in French in the presence of the members from Lower Canada; he would make no appeal of that nature, and I regret it, for that would give us the best of reasons for entering into the Confederation; but I must acknowledge that that statement of the honorable member is not exactly correct, for the basis of the Confederation is justice to all. The honorable member for Hochelaga also said, in order to produce an effect upon the members from Upper Canada, that the extension of the Confederation westward was a farce, "an absurd affair," because the western provinces do not even think of it, and because we have no communication with that territory.

HON. ATTY. GEN. CARTIER—We must go round Cape Horn! (Laughter.)

HON. SOL. GEN. LANGEVIN—Since the question of Confederation has been raised, papers have arrived from Victoria (Vancouver's Island) and from British Columbia, and they all agree in saying that it is to their