

tised in order, at a future period, to meet the expenses of local works, without rendering it necessary to defer other necessary items of expenditure. The expenses of the local legislation of Lower Canada may be set down at \$150,000, and that is a reasonable estimate if we remember that all questions of general interest are to be discussed and regulated by the Federal Parliament, and that the local legislatures will only have to deal with questions of local interest. It is clear that the sessions will be far shorter than they are at present, and far less expensive. Every one will admit that under the present system long discussions do not take place in the House on private bills and measures of local interest, which are discussed in committees, but that such discussions occur on questions of a general interest, such as railways, taxation, the tariff, Confederation, and that these are the discussions which prolong the session. I say, moreover, that the interest on the portion of the public debt to be assigned to us will be about \$90,000, and that our total yearly expenditure will reach \$1,237,000, leaving us a surplus revenue of \$209,000. I trust Lower Canada will have the prudence to set apart a large portion of the \$209,000, in order to carry out hereafter local works and improvements without being compelled to touch its yearly revenue.

MR. DUFRESNE (Iberville)—The surplus can be put out at interest! (Laughter.)

HON. SOL. GEN. LANGEVIN—The honorable member for Hochelaga feigns great uneasiness as to the position of Lower Canada in the Confederation, as well as to the matter of direct taxes. He spoke at great length as to the prosperous financial position of Lower Canada when she entered the union in 1841; but we must remember that before the union the revenue of Lower Canada was but \$580,000, and that, nevertheless, she was compelled to provide for all local expenses and many items of general expense which, under the Confederation, will fall within the domain of the Federal Government, such, for instance, as the payment of the salaries of the judges, etc. Under the Confederation Lower Canada will have a surplus of over \$200,000 on its local expenditure, even though the present expenditure should not be reduced. The honorable member for Hochelaga also said that the share of the debt apportioned to Lower Canada, apart from the general debt, would be \$4,500,000. He must have made serious errors in his calculations in order to arrive at such a result. The debt of the two Canadas at the present moment, deducting the Sinking

Fund, is \$67,263,000; comparing the calculation of the honorable member with that put forth by him in his address to his electors in 1863, I find he has arrived at a perfectly different result, and he has no right to accuse others of being in error. Thus, in his address he states that apart from the then debt, \$16,000,000 would be required for the Intercolonial Railway, and yet he now asserts that it would take twenty millions.

HON. MR. DORION—It was the President of the Council who said it.

HON. SOL. GEN. LANGEVIN—The honorable member should not trust to the calculations of the President of the Council, since he himself has stated that nothing good can come from this side of the House. But the fact is the honorable member was anxious not to frighten the people at that time, and therefore it was that he spoke of sixteen millions, whereas now he speaks of twenty. With regard to the amount of the public debt, the Hon. Minister of Finance has given us figures taken from the most reliable sources, and I prefer adopting his figures to following those of the honorable member for Hochelaga. The Hon. Minister of Finance told us that the total debt of the two Canadas, without counting the Sinking Fund, was \$67,263,000, and that the Federal Government would undertake \$62,500,000. There will therefore remain about \$4,763,000 to be divided between Upper and Lower Canada, and if Lower Canada takes for its share \$4,500,000 as the honorable member stated, there will only remain about \$263,000 for Upper Canada! I do not see how the honorable gentleman has managed to arrive at such a result, for it is clearly erroneous.

HON. MR. DORION—Let the Honorable Solicitor General apply to the Honorable Minister of Finance, and he will get the explanation.

HON. SOLICITOR GENERAL LANGEVIN—It is evident that the honorable member for Hochelaga, in his calculation of the apportionment of the residue of the debt between Upper and Lower Canada, has put a 4 in place of a 1 or 2, in the same way that he put 20 in place of 16 in the matter of the Intercolonial Railway. In his anxiety to find fault he sees double, and instead of seeing five millions to be divided, he sees nine. The debt devolving upon Lower Canada will not be \$4,500,000. Lower Canada will have only its just share of the five millions to be divided.

HON. MR. DORION—The honorable member has forgotten the explanations of the Honorable Minister of Finance, who stated