

would look at some of the other notes of the progress which the Province had made during the time she suffered from her connection with Lower Canada. In railways she received from Government, or Government had expended in Ontario \$13,000,000, she had laid out from her own and gathered in from other sources \$30,000,000. While in Quebec, the Government had only expended on railways \$7,000,000, and had gathered from other sources \$36,000,000—the vast difference of \$93,000,000 against \$43,000,000. In roads and bridges, Ontario had received from the Government, and there had been expended within her borders, \$3,500,000. About the same amount had been expended in Quebec. But in Canals and other improvements, there had been expended in Ontario \$11,783,042, and from other sources than Government \$4,419,000; but in Quebec, only \$6,866,000, and from sources other than Government only \$40,000. Now, the total expenditure in Ontario on these works he had mentioned, during the period from 1839 to 1857, was \$120,050,291; while in Quebec, there was expended only \$61,925,690. He did not quote these figures for the purpose of showing that there was anything wrong in the agitation which brought about Confederation, nor did he say this to make anyone dissatisfied with our present position, but he referred to them to show that scarcely any new country in the world occupied so high a position as this. We were apt to forget as we passed along, floating with the tide, the gradual growth of the land, we were apt to forget the progress we had made till we paused and looked about us—took stock, as it were. Now, ever since he could recollect, during all the time that such financial injustice was being done to Ontario, we had been progressing favorably. During all that time it appeared that railways, canals, telegraph lines, covering thousands and thousands of miles and involving the outlay of millions of money, that schools involving the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars, that roads which cost the Government half a million of money or more, and those large public buildings which cost large sums of money; during all this time it appeared that these were going on, that the country was being cleared up and settled, that great highways were being constructed, we were, in fact, growing into a large and powerful nation. Ontario was at this day equal in extent to England and Ireland, and in population almost equal to Scotland; and with as large a population as either Denmark, Greece or Switzerland, it might now be considered as one of the Powers on this continent, and equal to the second-rate Powers in the old world. (Applause.) What railways had Ontario in 1836, in 1840, in 1845, or even

down so late as 1850? And what had she now? There was the Grand Trunk, extending from one end of the Province to the other. There was the London and Port Stanley, the Welland, the Erie and Ontario, the Northern, the Port Hope and Lindsay, the Cobourg and Peterboro', (laughter,) the Brockville and Ottawa, and the Buffalo and Lake Huron.

Hon. Mr. McMURRICH.—The Erie and Niagara. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. WOOD.—Well, we had it too. Ontario had built all these. She had, in addition, the Welland Canal, the Rideau Canal and the St. Lawrence canals. She had, besides, miscellaneous public works, such as the Burlington Bay harbours, and light-houses and public buildings, costing in all upwards of \$106,000,000. All these works had been accomplished within this Province within the short space of say 36 or 37 years,—the greater portion within the last 16 years—but all since the union of the Provinces. He wished to call attention to another thing. Some three millions of money had been expended in running the machinery of Government within the last three years. It was admitted by all that the present Administration was one of the most economical which had ever governed the country. But it was necessarily expensive to organize a new state of affairs, and to carry on the Government. It had been said that in the past Upper Canada had sustained great injustice with reference to the revenues of the country. Now, what was the public debt of the Province of Canada? It was \$73,000,000. He asked any gentleman to look at the assets and see what caused that debt. The Municipal Loan Fund caused \$7,500,000 of it. The Municipal Loan Fund of Lower Canada \$3,000,000. These two items alone amounted to over \$10,000,000. The Seigniorial legislation, about which so much had been said, caused \$6,000,000 more. Of the \$73,000,000, then, \$16,000,000 was at once pointed out. Add to this sum \$1,000,000 for other small items and there was a total of \$17,000,000, which formed in fact the entire assets to be divided between the two Provinces. So that out of the debt of the late Province of Canada all that could be counted was this \$17,000,000, of which \$7,000,000 had been expended in Lower and \$10,000,000 in Upper Canada. The decision arrived at was to allow the Province in which the debt was contracted, pay for it. That was, Lower Canada was to pay her \$7,000,000 and Upper Canada her \$10,000,000 of the debt. Under the old Union, Ontario occupied an enviable position, but the people could not be brought to see it. They were dissatisfied, and wished to enter into Confederation with the other Provinces. Very probably it was right, and in their interest to do so, but, of one thing he was certain, it was not in her financial interest to do so. If Ontario wished to make the same progress under Confederation that she had during the old Union, she would have to resort to direct taxation. Because the expenses attending the four Provincial Governments, and all the costly paraphernalia of the central Government must be paid from some source. Of the taxes which went to swell the Dominion exchequer, every hon. gentleman was aware that 59 was paid by Ontario. But it was probable that there were other considerations which would outweigh all this. It might be said that the Province of Canada could not maintain a separate and independent existence. She could not get justice in respect to the control of her finances, and she was debarred from increasing the number of her representatives to counterbalance the Lower Canada majority. He was always of opinion that it was better to be on an equality than in a minority. Whereas,

we had 65 representatives to 65, we had now only 52 to 99, leaving us in a minority of 17. After some further remarks respecting the injuries which Confederation had inflicted on Ontario, he concluded by urging on the House to avoid causing expenditure by useless discussions on matters which did not affect the interest of the people. Such was the aim of the Government, and he hoped the hon. members opposite would not waste the time of the House in vain attempts at oratorical display. He moved that the Speaker leave the chair. (Applause.)

Mr. BLAKE said, in reference to that portion of his hon. friend's speech in which he alluded to oratorical demonstration, he would simply say that there was no danger of the country being lost by the oratorical display of his hon. friend. The hon. Treasurer took occasion on this, as on every other chance, to disparage the Constitution under which we exist. The hon. gentleman was not giving a fair trial to the Constitution, but was endeavouring, with other gentlemen on that side of the House, to unsettle the minds of the country by their expressions with regard to it.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said that the hon. gentleman on the other side of the House was disposed to charge his side of the House with trying to injure the Constitution; and it ill became him to speak thus, when he had endeavoured to belittle this House by calling it the Little Council, and contrasting it with the Big Council at Ottawa. The hon. gentleman had, during this session, tried to embitter one section of the Dominion against another, and thus to destroy the Constitution. He (Mr. Cameron) denied that his hon. friend the Premier had deserted his party, but the hon. member for South Bruce had done so. The soundest members of the Reform party supported the Premier.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said there were two or three points on which he wanted to make a few remarks, and the first was the increase of the Departmental staff. At the time of Confederation the greater portion of the then staff was transferred to Ontario, and so had they been disposed of that the amount of their salaries was now \$13,135 less than when the transference of the Department was made, and the yearly expenses of the Crown Lands Department were this year \$16,000 or \$17,000 less than they were on any former occasion, while the letters received in that Department amounted to a great deal more this year than in any previous year. He was of opinion that the Department had been managed more efficiently this year than it had ever been before. He then entered into a defence of his stringency in making settlers pay up their dues promptly, and said that he had no doubt the course he had pursued had gained him some little unpopularity; but that was what he must expect. He then read a couple of notices, announcing that certain lands would be sold for non-payment of amounts due on them to the Government, issued by the hon. member for Bothwell. A cry had been raised that the course pursued by him (Hon. Mr. Richards) had driven settlers out of the country; but it was shown that in 1868, when the distress spoken of took place, the receipts at the Crown Lands office was far in excess of what they were in any previous year. An excess was also shown in the receipts for School Lands. He next referred to the revenue derived from timber, and said that he was satisfied that heretofore large sums of that money had not been collected that ought to have been collected. He did not wish to charge dealers in timber, as a body, with fraud, but he felt that a great many of them had not paid dues which they ought to pay. To show how efficiently this portion of his duty had been discharged, the honourable gentleman read a statement showing that during the last six years of the old Province of Canada the average revenue from this source amounted to \$311,000, while up to this date they had received on account of this year's dues the sum of \$319,000, and about \$183,000 was yet outstanding.

Mr. McKELLAR—Is this the net or the gross revenue?

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said it was the gross revenue, and as it had been said that this revenue was very expensive to collect, he would remark that it took less than 3 per cent. of the gross amount to collect it.

Mr. McKELLAR asked the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands to read the notices respecting sale of lands for arrearages of revenue which he had said were issued by him (Mr. McKellar.)

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS then read the notices and gave the dates.

Mr. McKELLAR said that he had never seen the notices as he would not have supported them. But leaving that out of consideration it would be seen by the dates of the different notices issued by him and those issued by the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, that while the former were issued at a time when farmers were selling their produce, and were therefore in a position to be able to pay their dues, the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands had issued his in the middle of harvest. The course of that hon. gentleman merited the severest condemnation. If the Government was in want of money there would be some excuse for their conduct, but they claimed that they had plenty of money.

Mr. BLAKE said that he had received numerous letters from gentlemen in his County stating that the notices of the hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands were creating a great deal of consternation amongst people owing the Government money on their lands, and he wrote a letter to the hon. gentleman asking him if it was the intention of the Government to carry out the terms of those notices; but he had never received an answer. Perhaps that was the case with a great many of the large number of letters that the hon. gentleman said had been received at the Crown Lands Department (hear, hear). He was aware that large numbers of persons in the country had mortgaged their lands, and paid 12 per cent interest in order to obtain money, with which to pay up their dues; and a mortgage on their land was about equivalent to its loss.

Mr. McCOLL said that he had found the same state of affairs in the constituency he represented. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CARNEGIE said that, in the consti-

tuency represented by him, he found that the men who were in arrearages were generally in good circumstances, and quite able to pay their dues. Some of them he knew to have money out at interest.

Mr. SCOTT (Ottawa) said that it was a source of great gratification to them to learn that the revenue from timber had been so

large this year, but one source of the remarkable increase in the dues was to be found in the fact that a new business in connection with the timber trade had lately sprung up, and that was the manufacture of sawn lumber. He could name mills put up during the last year that had cut 250,000,000 feet of lumber. One was near Ottawa, and there were several up near Georgian Bay. He thought it would have been a great misfortune had the statement, that the revenue derived from timber had increased so much during the last year, gone forth to the country without the explanation he had made.

Mr. FERGUSON said that in the two Counties represented by him he had never heard of any of the people coming down to the city of Toronto and paying ten or twelve per cent. for money to liquidate their debts to the Government, although he had heard of them borrowing money to enable them to make improvements on their land.

Mr. GRAHAME (York) wished to ask the hon. Treasurer by what right some charges, that properly belonged to the period before Confederation, had been placed in the financial statement—such, for instance, as the salaries of the Clerks of the Crown and Queen's Bench, at the different assizes?

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that these charges were connected with the Law Society.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said, in reference to the remarks of the member for Ottawa respecting sawn lumber, that in 1867 about as much timber for its manufacture had been got out as during this year.

The House then went into Committee; Mr. Scott, of Ottawa, in the chair.

Hon. Mr. WOOD moved the vote of \$2,415 for the Government House for the ensuing year.

After a few remarks from Mr. Blake, the motion was adopted.

The Committee then rose and reported, and the House adjourned at half past twelve.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

The following notices were given:—

Mr. Ferguson—Address for statement showing the several amounts, or approximate amounts received by the Crown Lands Department, from the sale or disposal of timber lying, growing, or being on the several road allowances in the several Municipal Corporations of or in Ontario, during the past three years; the Corporation from which the said timber was or is being taken, and the names of the several parties to whom the same was sold.

Mr. Blake—That the report of the Select Committee to whom were referred the petitions relative to the Land Improvement Fund be adopted.