

ment which for the first time for a long number of years had been under the control of gentlemen belonging to the party of Reform.

Mr. CAMERON said the increase was derived from saving out of the expenditure on public works and the receipts from the sale of Crown timber.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS said the contrast was nevertheless such as he had made. The Province had improved in its resources nearly a million and a half in one year alone. Then hon. gentlemen would see further, in connection with the financial operations of the Government, that it had made two moves entirely to the advantage of the country, two important moves. The first was in removing the Government deposits from a banking institution which was in no sense identified with the banking interests of Ontario, which on more than one occasion by the action of its management had declared that Upper Canada as a banking field was unworthy of its attention. The Government had placed the Government accounts in the hands of banks that were entirely Ontario banks whose capital was owned by our neighbours and friends, whose head offices were here, and whose whole financial ability was devoted to the transactions of the Province. The amount of these Government deposits was now being used in developing the resources of Ontario instead of being used in all sorts of foreign financial centres in swelling the receipts of a banking institution which to all intents and purposes was foreign to the Province. The Government had insisted that these cash balances left in the different banking institutions should yield at least five per cent., and that these amounts could be safely and securely used by them at a profit which would be reasonable, over the five per cent., which they should pay to the Government. In these two respects it appeared to him that the financial policy of his predecessor, the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, had been certainly a success and entirely in the right direction, having regard to the interests of the Province. If his hon. friend would take the invested fund which he had mentioned and deduct from that the balance still payable in connection with this railway fund, he would find that there was still a funded balance of \$2,670,765. He was afraid that he was wearying hon. members with these statements, but it was necessary that they should go through the same course which he had gone through in order to inform himself on all these points.

Mr. RYKERT—Will the hon. gentleman state the balance on the first day of January, after giving credit to the Railway fund for two hundred thousand dollars?

Mr. CROOKS said the hon. gentleman wished to understand what would be the position of the Province with reference to its invested assets, assuming that during the present year the demands upon the Railway fund would be sufficient to exhaust it. There would be \$1,627,214 to be provided for out of our invested assets.

Mr. RYKERT—That includes the \$100,000 of the Railway fund.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS—Yes, last year's; so that still we had in investment \$2,670,765 which was a perfectly clear asset except so far as that it was subject to certain promises connected with this scheme of distribution. He would now come to what he presumed would be more interesting to hon. members, namely, his estimated receipts for 1873. He professed to state what he took as the basis of the estimated receipts for the current year. The amount of cash on hand at the beginning of the year was \$352,991. The interest on investments he placed at \$200,000, which was under the mark. He took this as cash, making \$552,991. He next came to the Crown Lands Department, which he looked to to furnish the Province with not less than \$1,100,000.

Mr. RYKERT—Give us the details of that.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS said the details were:—Crown lands, \$190,000, Clergy lands, \$120,000, Common School lands, \$80,000, Grammar School lands, \$50,000, woods and forests, \$800,000, mining lands, \$50,000, (the amount received last year was \$68,000, while the amount received for woods and forests last year was upwards of \$900,000); amount in suspense, \$35,000; casual fees, \$700. These were the detailed estimates furnished by the Commissioner, and were in excess of the amount he had placed in his estimates.

Mr. RICHARDS—Give us details of woods and forests.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS said the Commissioner had supplied him with these items:—Notes given at the late sale of timber berths, \$300,

000; dues \$500,000.

Mr. CAMERON—Surely the dues are going to be more than that, after the sale of 5,000 square miles.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS said hon. members would understand that they put the estimate under what would probably be the actual amount received. He next came to the casual revenue, from which he expected \$22,000, the amount received last year. This included fines and forfeitures, fees of Secretary's office, advertising in the Ontario Gazette, sale of statutes and journals, Private Bill fees. The fourth item of income was tavern and shop licenses, \$70,000. He hoped a more vigilant system of inspection would increase this amount. The next items were Algoma taxes, \$6,000; law stamps, \$40,000, assuming that this burden upon the country would be relieved, at least, one half; Education Department, \$50,000, based upon the information furnished by the chief Superintendent; public institutions, \$24,500. This amount was estimated after making allowance for what appeared to be the wish of the Legislature, namely, that the children whose parents were unable to pay for their tuition and maintenance at the institutions for the blind and for the deaf and dumb should be admitted to them free. After making allowance for the expense of their maintenance, he looked to public institutions for a revenue of \$24,500. From the Dominion, including the amount of \$35,000 for marriage licenses, he would receive \$1,089,960. He had taken a less amount than the Commissioner of Crown Lands had furnished him with, as the probable receipts from the Municipalities Fund, clergy reserve lands, and Common School lands. The amount from these sources he put down at \$185,000. This would make the gross probable receipts, for 1873, \$3,089,401. Hon. members would now be curious to know how much of that was to be expended in connection with the service of the Province for 1873. In the estimates brought down they would find that the sum total of these estimates was \$2,771,028. They would also find that \$271,000 was included in connection with the municipalities fund and the land improvement fund, and \$80,000 in connection with the expenditure of last year, which required to be covered by a vote of the House, making some \$350,000. The House would find that the estimates were in excess of last year, although last year should properly be charged with \$30,074 that appeared in this year's estimates, which should be reduced by that amount; so that, correctly speaking, the amount to be provided for this year, including the municipalities fund and the land improvement fund, would be \$2,690,943; and the amount last year would be \$2,392,000, and the estimates of 1871 were \$2,581,000; so that there was not a very large increase over the estimates of 1871. Hon. gentlemen might desire that he should point out specifically the difference between the estimates of this year and last, in reference to the principal heads of expenditure. He had prepared a tabular statement, which he would read over. The estimates for civil government this year was \$151,049, being an excess over last year of \$180,095; legislation this year, \$101,400, a decrease of \$9,540; colonization roads this year, \$146,300, an increase of \$66,594. The estimates were given in detail for each road in respect of which a vote was asked. It would appear from that that the hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, with whom this particular expenditure rested, had carefully considered the wants of the various sections of the Province. He proposed, as far as could be done during the current year, to extend these colonization roads into the back country, with the view of advancing settlement in that direction. He had divided the Province into three sections, north, west and east, the east and west sections being separated by the Hastings road. The north section embraced the Algoma district, which was a new acquisition to this country. Till last year the whole northern region on Lake Superior was almost a wilderness, except in so far as the Dawson exploration party had established a small village at Thunder Bay. There were a few light-house keepers, one of whom, in 1871, was found dead from actual want, his supplies having given out. During the present year an immense activity had been induced in consequence of the success that attended the development of certain of the mineral lands. And he anticipated that with proper encouragement, and the judicious expenditure of public money, the mineral resources of that large area of our country would be found even more rich and productive than those on the Pacific. At present but a very small portion of that vast area had yet been in any way explored. His own view was that the mineral wealth to be derived from that vast region would in the not remote future become a considerable