

460 miles had been opened, and probably some eight millions would be required to complete the work in progress. He thought he could congratulate hon. members and the country upon the financial position which he had been called upon to explain. They had met this session without knowing whether some portion of their domestic funds might not be required to meet the calls made upon them with respect to railway aid, but they found that they had quite enough surplus to enable them to meet those drafts, which would otherwise have been taken from their invested funds. Since this Province had acquired a separate Government in 1867, our expenditure had been very large and increasing, but the sufficiency of our financial condition entitled Government to assist the public institutions and make ample provision for other heads of the public service. The administration of justice and the management of educational affairs having been left in our own hands, we were thrown on our own resources to find means adequate to meet the requirements of the country in these respects. They were now fully prepared to meet all the demands that would be made upon them, and had a large surplus on hand. He claimed the right of congratulating the House and the country upon the statement he had just submitted, and said he could not, perhaps, better close than by simply asking them to reflect that Mr. Disraeli laid it down in one of his speeches recently made in the House of Commons in England, that the principle of all Governments should be that the "Consolidated Fund is not to be shut up in a box and never used for any purpose. It is our duty to see it is used for purposes conducive to the general welfare." Following out this principle he could say that the present Administration had endeavoured to disburse the public moneys in their hands for the benefit of the country in general.

Mr. RYKERT complained of the inaudible manner in which the Treasurer made his statement, declaring that not three members understood him, and thought he ought to have given him (Mr. Rykert) the privilege of making explanations during its delivery. He thought the Treasurer should have compared the income and expenditure with that during the years when the Sandfield Macdonald Government was in power. He contended that the surplus was being yearly decreased. During the existence of the Government which preceded the present, the surplus was over three millions; now, as he was prepared to show, it had grown as little as \$1,600,000. The Treasurer had last year done what no other Finance Minister had ever done, when he took \$352,000 out of the bank and classed it as first receipts. He had repeated the same thing this year, by taking \$277,000, and told the House that they would have \$100,000 to the good. He charged Mr. Scott with extravagance in the Crown Lands Department. He showed that in 1869 the receipts from Crown Lands proper were \$653,225; in 1870, \$552,887; in 1871, \$676,193; and in 1872, by what he termed the extravagant sales of Crown Lands by Mr. Scott, it was increased to \$1,109,000, and he contended that this item was increased by \$240,000 from the sale of lands. He argued that instead of the expenditure for the past year being \$2,400,000, it was really over \$2,500,000; and the cause of the expenditures being less than the estimates, was because the public works of the Province were not being proceeded with as they ought to be. While with regard to public works the expenditure was reduced from the cause he had referred to, the expenditure for Government was largely in excess of the appropriation. He considered that the public had not been fairly informed upon the state of the financial affairs of the Province by the statement of the Treasurer, and that the sources of revenue had been exceptionally great—much beyond what hon. gentlemen had counted upon, or had any right to count upon. He contended that instead of the balance of \$1,600,000 which the hon. gentleman had said would remain at the credit of the country, when all the amounts which ought to have been deducted from it had been so deducted, there would only remain \$1,085,000. It was right the country should know that we had a large amount of assets; it was also right that the country should know the amount of our obligations as against those assets. He charged hon. gentlemen opposite with sending garbled statements to the country. While he admitted that the Province had prospered, although not so much as it did some years ago, it had also to be remembered that hon. gentlemen had increased our expenditure to an enormous extent. He quite agreed that the cost of public buildings for maintenance and erection would naturally increase to some extent, but not so

enormously as they had done for a few years past under the administration of hon. gentlemen. On the whole, he could not congratulate the country on its financial prospects, as had been done by the Treasurer in his speech, because, although they might not spend as much money as they asked for, it was also possible they might spend more.

Mr. CAMERON enquired what was the meaning of the amount of \$25,000, as appeared on page 19 of the estimates, for the purpose of being paid out as assistance to emigrants who had arrived in 1873.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS said it was accounted for by the fact that some emigrants arrived in 1873 who were not entitled to be paid their bonus until 1874. This item was to meet that expenditure, and a similar one appeared in the estimates of last year. He also explained, in reply to questions by Mr. Cameron, that the estimate for the Central Prison was for the whole year of 1874.

Mr. LAUDER called attention to the increase of the expenditure and the decrease of income in the Crown Lands Department, showing that the proportion of income to expenditure in that Department had increased in a great degree, and arguing that instead of a falling off in the expenditure in that particular for the coming year being at all probable, as had been estimated by the Treasurer, there would again be an increase. He contended that there was really no surplus on land, but that the Province was really in debt. He also asserted that the proposed expenditure in the Crown Lands Department was \$367,483, exclusive of Colonization Roads, and would actually come within a few thousand dollars of the estimated income in the Department. He asked the Treasurer if he was not correct.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS said that the hon. member did not appear to understand the effect of the figures in the estimates, and he showed that the estimated expenditure was actually \$27,000 less than last year. He also took occasion to remark that he did not say that the surplus at the end of the year would be only \$1,600,000; what he did say was that that amount of invested capital would remain at the credit of the country, even if every claim now outstanding were paid up. That is to say, after paying more than three millions to the municipalities in payment of the Municipal Loan Fund distribution, and the full amount due from the Railway Fund, there would still be \$1,600,000 in the bank in favour of the Province, and two millions lying in the funds of the Dominion to the credit of Ontario at interest. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. LAUDER complained that the items had been changed and placed under new heads which made it very difficult to understand what the effect of the figures really was. He was unfortunate (hear, hear), and such a change should not have been made. The items should have been left in the order in which they had appeared for many years past, and which members fully understood.

It being six o'clock, the House rose for recess.

After recess the debate was resumed.

Mr. CAMERON said that, in the absence of the hon. Commissioner of Public Works, perhaps the hon. Treasurer could inform the House if the \$29,000 which appeared to have been paid to Messrs. Dickey, Neill & Co., and the \$23,000 which had been paid to the Canada Car Company, were for work for which tenders were received.

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR (who just then entered the House) said that the work that Messrs. Dickey, Neill & Co. did was not advertised, but tenders were received for it, and that the work given to the Canada Car Company was not tendered for, but they agreed to do it for the amount which was in the estimates, and the Government let them have it, as the contractor for the work was getting behind, and the Government were anxious to get the work done so that they could deliver the buildings over to the Company according to agreement. He thought that when the details were brought down it would be found that the work was done as cheaply as it could possibly have been got done.

Mr. CAMERON—Do I understand that tenders were received from a number of persons, or only from Messrs. Dickey, Neill, & Co.?

Mr. McKELLAR said that there were two tenders for the work referred to. Mr. Currie tendered for the boilers only, while Messrs. Dickey, Neill, & Co. tendered for both boilers and engines, and their offer being the lowest the whole of the work was given to them.