

They had been endeavouring, however, to carry on the business of the country with a staff hardly as large as the interests of the country required. The larger the business, the larger the cost of the staff required. He went on to point out the improvements which had been made as shown in the table at the end of his statement of 1874. There had been constructed and completed since the 1st of July, 1867, no less than 1,110 miles of railways, which were estimated by Mr. Molesworth to cost \$26,282,709. Notwithstanding the financial depression, and the great difficulties which had surrounded railway enterprises, it appeared that during 1875 upwards of 186 miles of railroad had been completed at a cost of \$3,806,163. The tables showed that since Confederation there had been an increase in the mileage of the Province of upwards of 1,300 miles, involving an expenditure of \$30,000,000. A large proportion of the prosperity of the Province since 1867 was to be attributed to the large amount of money brought here from abroad and put into circulation. The influence of that expenditure had been felt everywhere; it had been felt in the increased capital of the banks, in all departments of business. Since his election as member for South Oxford, he had been led to understand more thoroughly the progress that had been made during recent years in the products of the dairy. While depression has prevailed in the country during the past two years in the lumber trade, a good deal of the financial difficulty which had arisen had been overcome, and mainly overcome, by the increased product of the dairy, the large harvest, and the fair price which cereals had realized. The House might, indeed, coincide with the remark of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, that although we have been suffering equally with the United States from a depressed state of trade and other industries, the Province had been blessed with an abundant harvest, and had thereby been relieved to a considerable extent from an equally suffering condition. A good deal of our present favourable condition might be attributed to the increase in our cereal and dairy products, and he was astonished to find the extent of the new progressive industry in dairy products. The exports of cheese alone through Montreal and New York amounted to \$4,000,000 annually. Large returns were also obtained from the production of butter, and upon these subjects he was now qualified to speak, for he represented a county which was not excelled in dairy products. He was afraid he had somewhat wearied the House by the length of his financial statement, but it was necessary to offer the remarks he had done, and as he did not often exhaust its patience he hoped the House would pardon him on the present occasion. He had endeavoured, as Treasurer of the Province, to present such a statement of its financial affairs as he hoped would enable all hon. members to fully understand it; and he hoped no member of the House, and no elector who was called upon to give a verdict either for or against the present Administration, would do it in future under any apprehension that, so far as regarded the financial affairs of the Province, there had been impropriety with which the Government could be charged. If the Administration of the financial affairs by the present Government were understood according to the true facts, and according to the proper interpretation which should be given to their action, he was thoroughly convinced that they would desire not only to ratify the confidence they had reposed in the Government, but to extend their influence in the different constituencies. He could not, as Treasurer of the Province, and responsible for the administration of its financial affairs during some years, permit the present opportunity to pass without making an effort to place before the House and the country the truth in regard to the correct position of the financial affairs. On no occasion had he yet heard that any measure proposed by the Government had not been for the promotion of the best interests of the country, or that the present Administration had been in any degree neglectful of the public interests. He thanked the House for the patience with which they had heard his statement on the financial affairs of the Province. (Cheers.)

Mr. MACDOUGALL said he desired to express his satisfaction at the full and clear explanations of the hon. Treasurer of the financial condition of the country. He thought, however, that instead of having the Committee of Supply opened so early in the session, immediately following the Budget speech, the practice of the English House of Commons should be followed. He

thought that the question of whether or not we had a surplus was not so important a one as whether their administration of affairs had been wise and economical; and it was not the place of the Treasurer to be so careful to show that there was a surplus, for his figures, if correctly given, would show that. He did not think that the Government should claim credit because the resources of the country were producing large sums of money. The question was whether the normal expenditure of the country had been unduly increased. The Treasurer had left out of his calculation some of the expenditure on capital account and extraordinary expenses, but these were nearly always the same in the Supplementary Estimates, always constant; they had always to be accounted for. It was not fair to make out a small surplus from a supposed reduction of these expenses, when they were very likely to reach the amount of the income. He thought that from the statement of the hon. Treasurer it would not be long before the country would have to resort to direct taxation. He contended that the Parliamentary Buildings and other Government property, such as the Crown Lands, throughout the Provinces had just as good a right to be placed as assets as some of those which the Treasurer had so included. He considered, too, that it was very unfair to reckon as an asset, or in making out a surplus of the Province, funds in the hands of the Dominion Government, for this was in reality money which Ontario had paid in and was getting paid back again. Nothing should be included as an asset except the natural honest productions of the country. Many things which had hitherto been large sources of revenue were now nearly, if not quite, unproductive, such, for example, as the Crown Lands. It was now costing more to open up roads to the unsettled lands of the Province and otherwise provide for the comfort and convenience of our settlers than could be realized from the sales of such lands in the rocky districts of the Province. The timber of the Province was also rapidly disappearing, and so the income from that source would soon be at an end. He next referred to the timber sale made by the Government, saying that as the sale had been made under false representations, that many of the purchasers intended (if they had not already done so) getting the Court of Chancery to quash the sale. He believed, and the Attorney-General as an equity lawyer and an ex-equity judge knew, that these purchasers would have a good ground upon which to get the transaction undone. He differed entirely from the policy of the Government with regard to immigration. They were paying expensively for getting immigrants to come into the Province, and no care was afterwards taken to ensure their actual settlement in it, or to keep them from going into the United States, where he believed many of our bonused immigrants were going. He did not think the arrangement between the Province and the Dominion, with regard to immigration, was favourable to the Province of Ontario, as it placed affairs too much in the hands of the agents for the Dominion. The Agent-General in London for Canada, though he was a man for whom he had the highest respect, knew little, and cared less, about the interests of Ontario, and was altogether inferior, so far as fair, square work was concerned, to Mr. Dixon. The emigration building in London was very expensive, it was not in a good locality, and there was not a clerk in it to look after the special interests of Ontario. He didn't believe in taking the money of hard working settlers to pay bourse to immigrants who passed through the Province into the United States. The Treasurer's statement upon the whole was less unfavourable, considering the late financial depression, than they might reasonably have expected. (Cheers.)

Mr. MOWAT said he wished to offer a few remarks upon the observations of the hon. member for South Simcoe. He (Mr. Macdougall) had first found fault with regard to the rule of the House in regard to the Budget—and had said they should follow the practice of the House of Commons. The hon. gentleman had been so long in Scandinavia that he had apparently forgotten the practice of both the English and the Canadian Houses of Commons. They were now following in this Legislature, with regard to this very matter, the example set before them by both those bodies.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said he could not find it in the seventh edition of May.

Mr. CROCKS said he would give the hon. gentleman shortly a reference that would convince him that the Attorney-General was