

Mr. CLANCY said it was most interesting to watch the way in which the expenditure for colonization roads went up and down, according as the elections came on. (Hear, hear.) It was extraordinary. Was there not some substantial reason beyond that given by the hon. gentleman? Did hon. gentlemen believe the reasons given? He did not think so. The total over-expenditure under this head was \$144,272. The Commissioner of Crown Lands said that almost anything could be proved by figures. The hon. gentleman was an expert at that. (Hear, hear.) They had given money back to the people. That was true. They had bribed the people with their own money. If they had a surplus of \$6,000,000 that surplus ought to be earning something for the people. Yet the earnings on their investments amounted to the beggarly sum of \$57,521. If they had such a surplus why not pay off the railway scrip? (Hear, hear.) If they had the means of paying off this scrip now they could save \$3,069,425. They should conduct the affairs of the province as a business man would conduct his own business. No merchant would conduct his business in the same way as the financial affairs of the province were being conducted by the Government.

Mr. BALFOUR criticized the statement of the hon. member for West Toronto when that gentleman stated to the House that it would be of no use to discuss the accounts of the Province which had been submitted to the House, as these accounts could not be depended upon. That gentleman had further stated that the Commissioner of Crown Lands had told the members of the House that the proper way was to take the reports of the various Departments, compare them with the public accounts, and thereby arrive at a decision. The Hon. Commissioner for Crown Lands had said nothing of the kind. (Hear, hear.) Certain items of expenditure in his Department had not been charged up in the accounts for the year, and the Commissioner had stated that they could get it by reference to his Department, but this occurred only in the Crown Lands Department. He (Mr. Balfour) believed a most favourable statement of the accounts had been presented by the Provincial Treasurer. He could emphasize the position which the Treasurer had taken in regard to the Railway Aid question. He was sure the Treasurer's position was the true and correct one. He believed that, as the Dominion Government had assumed control of the Provincial railroads, that Government should re-pay the bonuses and subsidies granted. Some people objected to their taking aid from the Dominion. It had been stated that it was not a proper course for the Dominion to subsidize the various Provinces. He quoted the following, which showed the position. The Monetary Times had taken in reference to the matter:—

"The tendency to increase the Provincial subsidies presents one of the greatest perils to which the Federal finances are exposed. Manitoba, which was undoubtedly in an exceptional position, has got promise of another increase, and Nova Scotia is knocking at the treasury door with all the vigour of the combined strength of the two political parties, which have here found a common ground of agreement. If the balance is seriously disturbed in one direction, the necessity of redressing it in others will greatly increase the danger to the Federal finances."

He had no doubt but every member of the House subscribed to the position taken by that paper. If the subsidies to the other Provinces were increased, however, he thought they should not stand by without emphasizing their right to be treated the same as the other Provinces. This was the position taken by the Provincial Treasurer in regard to the matter. However, the hon. leader of the Opposition had, in a speech at London, stated that he believed the interests of the whole Dominion were more to be considered than the interests of the Provinces. He (Mr. Balfour) supposed they would find the hon. gentleman acting in that way in regard to their demands in this respect. He only hoped the hon. gentleman would be found supporting the Government in their right demands of the Dominion of Canada. (Hear, hear.) Notwithstanding if they could not take the railway liability as a present liability they now had more to pay off their liability, and had a larger surplus than at this time last year. (Hear, hear.) He would refer to just one or two items in connection with expenditure. They found that the Dominion Government for legislation in 1871 spent \$356,205, while in 1883-4 the expenditure under this head was \$662,767, almost double what it was ten years ago. For civil government they found that the expenditure had increased from \$642,000 in 1871 to \$1,034,000 in 1883. They found this to be a progressive increase, as was not the case in the Province. The Provincial Government had not gone on increasing their expenses for legislation and for civil government, but the cost had been about on an average, taking the expenditure for the past two or three years. Then they found the total expenditure of the consolidated fund of \$15,600,000 increased to \$31,107,000 in 1883-4, besides large sums which had been charged to capital account. By referring to the Budget they found that civil government demanded the usual increase. This increase had grown with the country. The hon. members opposite thought it right for the Dominion to increase these expenditures by very

large amounts. They found no fault with this at all, but with Provincial affairs all was different. The hon. member for North Grey had stated that he foresaw depression shadowing posterity as far as the Province was concerned, but he did not seem to be crushed by the present depression of the Dominion Government. (Hear, hear.) He supposed that gentleman would be crying out in agony about the burdens laid on future generations. He had not seemed to have been able to realize that yet. Mr. Balfour also referred to the liabilities of the Province of Quebec, and discussed an exploded charge which had fallen from the lips of the member for West Peterborough. The hon. member had tried to make out that the deficit this year was over \$700,000. The speaker thought, that according to the calculations of the hon. member, there might as well have been a deficit of a million dollars. It had also been stated that the Mowat Government maintained the public buildings which had been erected by the John Sandfield Macdonald Government. Now, he found that that Government had spent \$971,000 on public buildings, while the Mowat Government had spent \$2,700 for public buildings, in addition to maintaining the different institutions. That statement, therefore, had not been borne out by the facts. Hon. members when speaking on the Budget had claimed that the Ontario Government had no right to pay Hon. Edward Blake or Hon. David Mills for duties performed. The speaker asked how about some members of the Opposition who had received money for their services from the Dominion Government. He (Mr. Balfour) did not think those gentlemen opposite had ever sustained any charge of improper expenditure which they had laid against the Government. They had been unable to do so. They found the hon. member for West Toronto talking about the great expenditure of the Government and at the same time urging the Government to go on with the erection of new Parliament Buildings at Toronto. Their surplus, he thought, would last for thirty years. It was not such a gloomy outlook for posterity so far as Ontario as a Province was concerned. Before the Public Accounts Committee the Opposition had been unable to unearth what effected the standing of the Government, as far as the confidence of the people was concerned. (Applause.)

Mr. MERRICK complained of the House being called upon to wait for departmental reports before criticizing the public expenditure, particulars of which should be found in the public accounts. Year after year, when the appropriations were overdrawn, they were treated to excuses just such as the Commissioner presented to them. (Hear, hear.) It was seldom that the House saw the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands before near the end of the session. Year by year they had gone over the public accounts, assuming that they were correct, but it now seemed that their criticisms were of little value. But after the elections they returned to the House, and were told that there was an over-expenditure, which, however, had been carried over to the next year. Now the Commissioner said this was all wrong, and they would have to refer to departmental figures before reaching any conclusions. They did not object to a reasonable sum being spent on these roads, but they objected to the varying sums of \$80,000 in one year and \$120,000 in another. It was claimed that the present Government had spent during their thirteen years more than Sandfield Macdonald had spent during his four years of power. Of course, but the only fair comparison was one of annual rate of expenditure and the average, and he gave the figures which proved an excess of annual expenditure by Sandfield Macdonald over that of the present Government on account of public buildings of \$34,000. Colonization roads showed a different result, but in regard to Public Works there was a sum of \$38,000 in favour of Sandfield Macdonald annually and taking the average instead of the aggregate. So that respecting these three important items together, they found that the Government which preceded the present one spent more really than the one now in power. In estimating the surplus they had to judge the Government by its own acts. And what was the result? Taking the cash surplus of \$3,810,000, and adding the \$2,848,000, they had very nearly the whole of the surplus claimed. So far as their own savings were concerned the Government were entitled to no credit for the surplus. Hon. gentlemen opposite had received \$2,883,633 more than the six millions odd which they had given back to the people. As to the railway annuities, he hoped that the Government would take the advice of the member for East Middlesex (Mr. Waters), and either take a sufficient sum from the treasury to meet the liability or issue debentures and take up these annuities at once. He pointed out that the Commissioner of Crown Lands, in stating that the Treasurer had not said that in a short time they would have to resort to direct taxation unless they

appealed to the Dominion Treasury, was incorrect, for he was of opinion that the Treasurer did so state. (Hear, hear.) What were they coming to? The Government had held \$550,000 from year to year, and were probably reserving it to the time when the leader of the Opposition would permit the Government to erect new Parliament buildings. (Hear, hear.) They found the Government in the position of refraining from doing what they thought their duty, and erecting those buildings for fear of the Opposition. (Hear, hear.) He hoped that in future they would have public accounts upon which they could rely. (Applause.)

Mr. MEREDITH was surprised at the position the Commissioner of Crown Lands took. The hon. Commissioner posed before the House as a candid man. The Commissioner recognized the integrity of particular members of the House, and was always appealing to particular members of the House for the purpose of flattering them in the vain hope of catching a vote here and there, but to borrow an illustration, he might find, like the heathen Chinese, a couple of right bowers up the sleeve of the hon. gentleman. (Cheers.) The hon. Commissioner complained of unfairness when attacks were made upon him, but he charged the members of the great Conservative party with entering into a base conspiracy to plunder the people of this country. When the hon. gentleman wanted to make such charges he should not be so tender about charges being made against himself. The hon. gentleman said they were not able to point to any expenditure they could attack. He was particular about any attack on the expenditure for colonization roads, and he put up as a defender of his administration a gentleman to undertake to prove that there had not been exceptional expenditure on colonization roads in election years, who actually made the spectacle of declaring in one breath that there was money expended in 1883 charged to 1884 in the public accounts for one purpose, and then turning round and using the same as developing no such argument. (Cheers.) In 1881 the expenditure was \$97,289 for the hon. gentleman's department. In 1882 it was \$110,650, and in 1883, when the hon. gentlemen went appealing to the country to return them, they ran the expenditure up to \$150,497. (Cheers.) They preached patriotism in one breath and put their hands into the public treasury for the purpose of debauching the constituencies with the other. He had authority to spend \$17,000 in Algoma, and then when an election was pending, without the authority of Parliament expended another \$17,000. (Hear, hear.) The Treasurer made the announcement that he had got \$2,800,000 added to the surplus of the province. The hon. gentleman was so driven that he had to join hands with the Province of Quebec to obtain \$2,800,000 from the Dominion treasury, money that was obtained by the sacrifice of two and a half millions of money belonging to the people of Ontario. In 1872, when the budget speech of Mr. Mackenzie's Government was made, the position then taken was that from two-thirds to three-fourths of the revenue was contributed by the people of Ontario, and only the other day the Commissioner of Crown Lands gave as an excuse to a deputation for not granting aid to a railway that three-fifths of the money that went into the exchequer of the Dominion of Canada was contributed by the people of Ontario. By virtue of the contention which, for the purpose of claiming \$2,800,000 as part of the surplus of Ontario, the hon. gentlemen joined hands with the Province of Quebec in endeavouring to force upon the Dominion Government a construction of the Tilley Act of 1873 which was foreign to the spirit of the Act—(cheers)—by means of that construction of the Act \$7,172,297.92 was added to the debt of the Dominion. He called to witness the evidence of the Commissioner of Crown Lands that three out of five dollars were contributed by Ontario. The Treasurer was responsible for this, because by joining hands with Quebec he made it impossible for the Dominion Government not to yield to that demand. (Cheers.)

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Huron)—I would ask how many demands the Dominion Government have not acceded to?

Mr. MEREDITH—We are at this one demand now.

Hon. Mr. HARDY—Do not make us responsible for the Dominion's crimes.

Mr. MEREDITH—No, you have enough of your own. (Laughter and applause.) The hon. gentleman waxed dogmatic when reference was made to the wise and careful expenditure of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald, but there