

didate represented that if their party got into power they would give this money to the municipalities, giving the idea that everybody would get a share of the boodle. As to the claim that the Roman Catholic Church had exerted undue influence, he denied it. In his own riding the clergy remained neutral, and in the south riding they rather opposed the Government candidate. The effort on the other side was simply to rouse the prejudices of unthinking people. But the people in a township which had a great majority of intelligent Protestants had refused to listen to the firebrand speeches of these agitators and at last used to set their dogs on these missionaries. (Laughter.) He trusted that these false cries had been hushed forever and that the work of building up a united people in the Province would go on under this wise Administration undisturbed.

Mr. HUDSON denied that the Conservative party had raised the religious cry; the policy of the Conservative party was to grant equal rights to all. He had lost all the Catholic vote which he formerly had, but he had nevertheless been elected by a larger majority than before. He denied that but little fault had been found with the expenditures in former years, and he referred to the notes of previous sessions as proof. The fact that the grant to a road in his constituency had been withdrawn and that the expenditure on the improvements of the Moira river were to cease convinced him that the surplus was a myth, and that there was nothing for the Government to draw from. There was a surplus in the time of John Sandfield Macdonald, but since then there had been a series of deficits covered over by the receipts from sale of Provincial property, so that the Province had been living on its capital for over ten years.

Mr. EVANTUREL said that the members of the House, he feared, rested under the impression that all the money spent on colonisation roads should be spent in Algoma and Muskoka. They of the East were glad to see the growth of the Province westward, but he would be untrue to his riding and to the part of the Province from which he came if he failed to remind the House and the Government that colonisation was going on rapidly in Prescott. In this connection he referred to the complaints made of a "French invasion." The French Canadians came in because the holders of the land were willing to sell out to them, and the French, as a general thing, paid high prices. He regretted to hear this question of race and creed again raised by gentlemen opposite. He was not able to say what the position of the leader of the Opposition was with regard to it, for his speeches in the eastern part of the Province did not agree with those made in the west. While the hon. gentleman was in Glengarry assuring the people that it was wrong to raise questions of race and creed, the County of Prescott alongside was being flooded with copies of *The Mail* done up in bundles under the seal of the Conservative Association. (Cheers.) The postmasters were driven nearly crazy by the bundles that came, and *The Mail* was sent to many men who had up to that time been unaware of its existence. In the late Dominion contest, knowing what injury it would do them to be found in company with that newspaper, they started a new organ, *The Standard*. But no sooner were the ballot-boxes closed than *The Standard* ceased, and *The Mail*, all denials to the contrary notwithstanding, resumed its place. He quoted many undoubted facts, especially the return to this House by Ottawa City for the first time of an English-speaking Protestant, to prove that the

Roman Catholics had not sought to exert undue influence—on the contrary, were ready to conciliate in every way. He trusted that this miserable cry would not again be raised, especially by gentlemen on the floor of this House.

Mr. MEREDITH said that the financial position of the House had already been thoroughly discussed. The fact that the Government were putting forth

MISLEADING STATEMENTS

of the financial position of the country was unfortunate in more respects than one. It was not only that it led to large claims being made upon the Ontario Treasury. The Province of Quebec was now putting forth claims to a re-adjustment of the subsidies, and if any such re-adjustment took place those unduly favorable statements as to the financial position of Ontario would place her at a serious disadvantage. He himself objected to any re-adjustment of the subsidies. These subsidies were paid out of the taxes of the people. It was said that the people of Ontario paid a greater proportion of the taxes than the people of any other Province, and if so the effect of any increase in the subsidies would be

TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF ONTARIO.

Mr. Blake had expressed the opinion that it would have been better if there had been no subsidies, and there was much to be said in favor of that view. The Dominion would be put to a great expense in taking steps for the consolidation of the Empire, and the time was not opportune to make further demands upon the Dominion Treasury. The Province of Ontario had arrived at a period when the ordinary receipts were inadequate to meet the ordinary expenditure. In those ordinary receipts were included the interest upon the surplus, which interest was now being used for the ordinary purposes of the Province. They must economise if they wished

TO AVOID DIRECT TAXATION.

The member for North Middlesex (Mr. Waters) said that because he did not object to particular votes he was equally responsible with the Government for the whole expenditure. On the same principle, Mr. Blake and his friends were responsible for the expenditure of \$38,000,000, made by the Dominion last year. That was not the true principle. There were certain expenditures which the Opposition could not challenge, but must allow to pass, leaving the responsibility with the Government. Hon. gentlemen talked of the enormous debt of the Dominion, but every dollar of their surplus represented an indebtedness which had been taken off their shoulders and

ADDED TO THE DEBT

of the Dominion. It was unfair for the Government to say that they had discontinued their aid to railways because the Dominion had assumed control of them, for they had announced the policy of ceasing that aid before the Dominion took that step. It was a question of Dominion policy to exercise this power of aiding local railways, and in the Dominion House objection should be