

at the present time Ontario was paying two-thirds of the revenue of the Dominion.

Mr. MEREDITH—Does the hon. gentleman dispute my statement?

Hon. Mr. ROSS—Does the hon. gentleman mean to say we are? If so, how is it he has remained quiescent so long under the enormous burden that the Province has been suffering under? If he has definitely accepted that position, let him maintain it. Let us see what some of the expenses of the Dominion are. The debt of the Dominion is placed at \$227,000,000; and according to the hon. gentleman Ontario's share of the tremendous debt which

#### THE FOLLY AND EXTRAVAGANCE

of the hon. gentleman's friends had heaped upon the country was so great as \$150,000,000. Then the Intercolonial railway cost \$32,000,000 a year to keep it up. It was of comparatively little service to Ontario, yet according to the hon. gentleman who led the Opposition, it took from the pockets of the people of Ontario the sum annually of \$21,000,000. The perpetuation of the fisheries cost the country \$415,000 a year, and though they, too, were of comparatively slight importance to Ontario, yet, according to the hon. gentleman, Ontario had to pay of that sum as much as \$276,000, when as to the expenditure on emigration, a policy supported mainly for the purpose of filling up the Northwest, the money expended amounted to \$416,000, and according to the hon. gentleman Ontario had to pay \$318,000 out of that. How would the farmers like the idea of doing what the hon. gentleman said they were doing.

Mr. MEREDITH here interrupted the speaker and claimed that a serious charge had been made against him to the effect that he had misled the House. The hon. gentleman then quoted a Budget speech by the Hon. Alex. Mackenzie, delivered on the 21st of January, 1872, the purport of which was a statement by him to the effect that Ontario was paying a larger proportion of the revenue of the Dominion than any other Province.

Hon. Mr. ROSS, resuming, said:—Well, upon my word, I sat down thinking I was to be squelched by some conclusive quotation from Mr. Mackenzie. (Loud Government cheering). Had anybody, continued the hon. gentleman, ever disputed that Ontario was paying a larger share to the Dominion revenue than any other Province? He had again and again found fault with the position of Ontario, because, being the largest Province, it was contributing more than the others and getting less in proportion than they. But the hon. gentleman had not disputed his proposition that he had distinctly quoted Hon. Alex. Mackenzie as stating that the Province at the present time contributed two-thirds of the revenue of the Dominion, though he must have known when he did so that the quotation had reference to the Province before Confederation. The hon. gentleman gave similar statistics in regard to the License Liquor Act, the Canada Pacific railway, Ontario's proportion of the cost of which, according to the hon. member for London, would amount to

\$40,000,000 or so. Then in the matter of the present subsidies, according to the hon. gentleman, the leader of the Opposition, Ontario's proportion of the whole amount given in subsidies would be \$2,788,000 or so, and as she

received back about \$1,339,000 she would really be giving two dollars

FOR EVERY DOLLAR SHE RECEIVED.

And yet the hon. gentleman had never raised his voice until now on behalf of Ontario in this matter. Had he acted as a

TRUE SON OF ONTARIO

—(Government cheers)—in remaining silent and not making any effort or protest to have Ontario relieved from this terrible burden? No; the hon. gentleman had never raised his voice in protest, but now that they were proposing that Ontario should be placed in a better position than ever before, he asked, "Is it politic for you to ask for an increase because you are already paying more than you receive?" Now, either the long-continued silence of the hon. gentleman must have been criminal or he must be insincere in raising his voice at the present time. The present practice, continued the hon. gentleman, was directly in opposition to the terms made at Confederation. He would quote Hon. Geo. Brown on the subject. The hon. gentleman who led the Opposition quoted him the other day, but had given the quotation a wrong application. Mr. Brown had said:—

We have also complained that immense sums of public money have been systematically taken from the public chest for local purposes of Lower Canada, in which the people of Upper Canada had no interest whatever, though compelled to contribute three-fourths of the cash. Well, sir, this scheme banishes all that. All local matters are to be banished from the General Legislature; Local Governments are to have control over local affairs, and if our friends in Lower Canada choose to be extravagant, they will have to bear the burden of it themselves. No longer shall we have to complain that one section pays the cash while the other spends it; hereafter they who pay will spend, and they who spend more than they ought will have to bear the brunt.

Now, continued the hon. gentleman, Ontario would not have objected if the Provinces had been all thrown on their own resources, as was here suggested. What Ontario objected to was that when the other Provinces got into difficulties they always had relief granted; and thoughtful men in all the Provinces had come to the conclusion that the existing system of granting relief was both improvident and demoralising, and that if Confederation was to be maintained, the aid granted out of the Dominion exchequer must be on some

WELL-DEFINED AND FIXED

principle which in some measure would accommodate itself to the growth of population, and which should be absolutely final. The hon. gentleman quoted Sir Alexander (then Mr.) Galt's speech in the Confederation debate in support of his contention that the original subsidies amount was intended to be final. He also quoted Hon. D'Arcy McGee's speech at the same debate in support of his position. Now, Ontario would have been perfectly content if the original terms had been adhered to. Ontario had been prudent and economical in her system of government. Her people had been educated in municipal government and taxation, and had not undertaken obligations beyond her means. Ontario's superior financial position had been used to her detriment, and she now