

desired to be placed on a level with the other Provinces in regard to the privileges she should receive in common with them. The other Provinces had got into difficulties mainly through their almost entire assumption of local expenditures. Ontario was the frugal partner who had confined her personal expenditure within her allotted allowance; she had compelled every member of her family to contribute to household expenses, and they had been

ABLE TO PAY HER WAY, while the more improvident partners through over-indulgent paternal liberality, not only fed and clothed grown-up members, but supplied even pin-money to the municipalities, and then sought relief out of the partnership capital. It would not be out of place to direct the attention of the House to what the people of Ontario did

THROUGH HER MUNICIPAL COUNCILS. He would take the figures for 1883, the last he had at hand complete. The total municipal expenditure that year was \$14,323,745, or about \$7 50 per head of the population. Of this sum, she had expended in improvement of highways and bridges \$1,935,865, or a dollar per head of the population; for schools, \$3,451,989; for the administration of justice and police, \$606,962. He would have been glad to have been able to give definite information regarding the municipal expenditure in other Provinces, but no reports were found in any State papers, and although he had addressed inquiries to many of the county treasurers in the different Provinces the results had been very meagre, the reply in most cases being that none were published. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick there were county, municipalities and a few towns, but there were no townships. All the municipal management was done through County Councils. In Prince Edward Island there were no County Councils and no Township Councils, only a few towns being municipally incorporated. In Quebec there were county and township organisations, but the system must be very limited. There were three or four replies saying "no reports," and one—from L'Islet—giving information. The receipts for the year of that municipality were \$90 and the expenditure \$80. He had statements of receipts and expenditure from three counties in Nova Scotia and one in New Brunswick, viz., Kent, N.B., and Pictou, Lunenburg and Inverness, N.S. Taking these as samples, it appeared that the average expenditure per county in the Lower Provinces was \$25,782, while there was practically no expenditure for the construction of roads and bridges. Now the total municipal expenditure for Ontario was \$14,323,745 or \$7 50 per head, or deducting the expenditure for the cities it would be \$9,647,758 or \$6 per head. Dividing that among 40 counties would give a municipal expenditure of \$241,193 for each county, or allowing for the difference in the population of the counties of Ontario and the Lower Provinces, \$180,000 for each county as compared with a municipal expenditure of \$25 in the Maritime Provinces. The two longest items in Ontario's municipal expenditure were schools and roads and bridges. The Ontario municipalities, including the cities, expended \$1,176,878

in roads and bridges, equal to \$29,400, while the Lower Provinces spent for this service practically nothing. In 1837 the Government expenditure on colonisation roads for opening up new sections of country was \$123,000. In 1836 the Government expenditure in Quebec, partly for the same purpose, was \$161,000; in Nova Scotia, \$23,803; in New Brunswick, \$170,784, and in Prince Edward Island, \$40,500, or the average Government expenditure in the lower Provinces was fifty cents per head; in Ontario six cents per head; in the Lower Provinces the municipal expenditure was practically nothing; in Ontario it was 61 cents per head.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The amounts expended on Public schools were as follows:—

	Government.	Municipal.
Ontario.....	\$350,587	\$2,922,903
Quebec.....	249,417	777,178
Nova Scotia.....	199,119	442,331
New Brunswick.....	132,493	94,507
P. E. I.....	101,355	36,786

If, instead of allowing the municipalities to do a large share of the work, the Ontario Government had followed the plan pursued in the Lower Provinces, she would probably have to face a deficit.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

Hon. Mr. ROSS went on to say that no charge of extravagance could be made against the Maritime Provinces. They had managed their affairs very economically. The main cause of their having got into difficulties was their having taken too much upon themselves. In some cases they threw upon the municipalities burdens which the Province assumed altogether in Ontario. In Ontario the Provincial treasury bears the whole cost of caring for the insane. In Nova Scotia the municipalities assume a portion of the expense. Now it seemed to be a settled belief that Ontario's better position was due to advantages under Confederation, a belief apparently shared in by the authorities at Ottawa, as the special grants indicated. This system of special grants was very unfair, especially to Ontario, as being the largest contributor, and although Ontario had suffered in the past, she might be willing to submit if assurances could be given that the other Provinces would cease their demands in the future. Could Ontario go on from year to year with special grants being given to other Provinces and nothing to her? But these other Provinces would not cease their demands because they were in financial straits and said the scheme of Confederation had been working unjustly upon them; the promises made at the date of Confederation had not been fulfilled; that onerous burdens had been thrown upon them by taxation and otherwise, and they had been forced to seek relief from the Dominion. Then they said (with a great deal of force) that the people were not now able to bear the burdens they were formerly, and they said if they were forced into this municipal system of taxation, they would prefer to withdraw from Confederation. He proposed to consider the