

BUDGET DAY.

THE PROVINCIAL TREASURER
MAKES HIS ANNUAL STATE-
MENT.

A Good Showing For the Province—
The Disputed Accounts Between the
Provinces and the Dominion—A
Very Full Statement of
the Matter—Speeches
by Mr. H. E. Clarke,
Mr. Awrey and
Mr. Craig.

February 14, 1889.

To-day was Budget day at the Local Legislature. Mr. Ross rose to make his annual statement immediately after the despatch of routine business. He spoke for over two hours and made an exceedingly clear and forcible statement of the financial affairs of the Province. The surplus, which has bothered Mr. Creighton and that other star of finance and heir-expectant to the treasurership for so many years, is still there and will be as hard a nut as ever for them to crack. Mr. Meredith was absent most of the afternoon, Mr. Creighton being in charge of the Opposition. Mr. Clarke, it was understood, was to head the charge against the Treasurer, and he moved the adjournment of the House at the close of the afternoon sitting.

The usual number of petitions were presented and then the following bills were introduced and read a first time:—

- To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Craig.
- To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Leys.
- To require the owners of elevators and hoists to guard against accidents—Mr. Gil-mour.
- To incorporate the Dominion Life Insurance Company—Mr. Snider.
- Respecting the St. Catharines & Niagara Street Railway Company—Mr. Garson.
- To amend the law in certain matters of legal procedure—Mr. Guthrie.
- To amend the Assessment Act—Mr. Gar-son.

THE BUDGET.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE HON.
PROVINCIAL TREASURER.

At about half-past three Hon. A. M. Ross, the Treasurer, rose to make his annual financial statement. He introduced his speech with the remark that the statement was one that was always looked forward to with interest by both sides of the House. On the Government side the interest was combined with the hope that the proceedings of the year would justify the confidence felt in the Government by the House and the Province; and on the Opposition side it was combined with a wish that the statement might be satisfactory, coupled with a desire to criticise and investigate. It must be satisfactory to the whole House, however, to see the actual transactions of the year bear out the forecast made at the last session of the House. He followed this year the practice he introduced into the House some years ago in placing in the hands of members of the House printed statements of the assets and liabilities of the Province, the receipts and expenditure of the past year, and the estimated receipts for the current year. The hon. gentleman then proceeded to discuss the

RECEIPTS OF LAST YEAR.

These are given below. The printed statement of the same gave the various items under the heads of "Crown Lands Department," "Public Institutions' Revenue" and "Casual Revenue." The hon. Treasurer commented upon the different items as he came to each, save in cases where no comment was called for, but for convenience they are here printed collectively:—

Subsidy.....	\$1,116,872 80	
Specific grant.....	80,000 00	\$1,196,872 80
Interest on capital held, and debts due by the Dominion to Ontario.....	\$ 279,111 10	
Interest on investments.....	55,331 95	
Crown Lands Department.....	2,443 05	2,443 05
Algoma taxes.....	1,436,454 58	1,436,454 58
Law stamps.....	2,282 26	2,282 26
Licenses.....	81,044 50	81,044 50
Education Department.....	233,886 19	233,886 19
Public institutions' revenue.....	33,173 74	33,173 74
Casual revenue.....	102,897 17	102,897 17
Insurance company's assessments.....	34,714 90	34,714 90
Removal of patients.....	3,020 57	3,020 57
London L. A.—insurance.....	9,083 53	9,083 53
Deaf and Dumb Institute—insurance.....	1,279 94	1,279 94
Agricultural College—sale of fur-niture.....	336 42	336 42

niture.....	113 25
Lake Nipissing works—sale of scow.....	400 00
Drainage works assessments.....	15,041 52
Municipal loan fund.....	4,000 00
	\$3,489,044 42
Drainage debentures.....	31,758 44
" tile.....	3,398 56
Orillia L. A.—mortgage.....	1,500 00
Mimico farm mortgage.....	2,386 84
Toronto L. A.—sale of lands.....	30,471 81
New Parliament Buildings fund..	28,861 71
	\$3,587,421 78

The items down to that of "Crown Lands Department" did not call for special remark and the Treasurer passed rapidly over them. Coming to that item, however, he pointed out that the estimate had been \$36,854 below the amount received, which was the largest amount received since Confederation during one year from that source of revenue. The item of "Algoma taxes" was less than the amount estimated (\$5,000) by \$2,717 74. This falling off was accounted for by the fact that many lands sold in Algoma in 1887, often for less than the amount of taxes, were expected to be redeemed, but fewer had been redeemed during the year than it was expected would have been the case. In "law stamps" the estimate of \$66,000 had been exceeded by \$15,044. The receipts for the year in this particular were larger than in any year since 1874, part of the increase being due, no doubt, to commutations. In the item of "licenses" the estimate of \$195,000 had been exceeded by \$38,886 19. This increase was due chiefly to the

TAKING OUT OF LICENSES

in the different counties in which the Scott Act was repealed last year. Although at the time of the meeting of the House last year it was known that the vote on the appeal would come up, it was not deemed safe to count upon any revenue accruing to the Government as a consequence; but the Scott Act was repealed in eight counties, and the consequent revenue to the Government was \$34,510. The receipts from the Education Department were largely in excess of the estimate of \$25,000. This was mainly due to the large number of examinations that had taken place, and which had been a source of considerable revenue. The estimate of \$123,300 from public institutions had not been fulfilled, the receipts falling \$20,902 83 short of that figure. This was mainly due to the fact that the account with the Central Prison in connection with the brickmaking industry carried on in that institution had not been adjusted. The receipts from the Central had been estimated at \$65,000, and, owing to the fact mentioned, only \$27,727 29 had been received. The account was adjusted at the close of the year, but could not be included in the present statement. The item for removal of patients was \$3,083 57 in excess of the estimate of \$6,000. The ensuing items down to that for drainage assessments spoke for themselves. The item for the drainage works assessment was less by \$8,959 than the estimated receipts, namely, \$24,000. This was owing to the closing of the account too soon to admit of various receipts which had come in during January, but which would have brought the figures up to estimate. Then there was the municipal loan fund. The receipts \$4,000 were short by \$850 of the amount estimated to be received, but amount had been paid since the Government's financial year, which closed the account with the main-
tain respect. There was nothing more to collect from any of them. Thus our

TOTAL ORDINARY RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR have amounted to \$3,489,044 42, as against an estimate of \$3,403,233, being an excess of \$85,811 81 so that the forecast of last session was verified with tolerable closeness and was within the mark. Outside of the ordinary receipts there was the item for drainage debentures and the important one for the sale of the asylum lands. The high prices paid for real estate in the City of Toronto had compelled the Government to arrive at the conviction that it was not wise to hold seventy acres of land in an important part of the city chiefly for the purpose of raising vegetables on it. Last year it had been decided to erect four cottages at Mimico, to relieve the overcrowded condition of the asylum, out of the proceeds of the sale of the land in question, but the proceeds had been so excellent that it had been decided to erect eight cottages instead of four. Tenders for five blocks were accepted at the following rates:—D, on Queen street, to Land Security Company, at \$152 50; M, to A. McRoberts, at \$31 50; O, to Toronto Loan & Investment Company, at \$31 60; R, to C. H. Nelson, at \$32; T, to T. H. Luce, at \$25 per foot. Tenders for three blocks

on Queen street and one rear lot had been declined, not having been considered up to value. The rear lot had since sold for \$30 50 per foot to T. McGaw. Altogether thirteen blocks had been sold, five on Queen street and eight on the rear, at a total of \$215,688. The terms were twenty-five per cent cash and the balance within five years. Of the twenty-five per cent cash \$30,471 81 had been received. Three blocks remain unsold on Queen street, from which it is expected say \$60,000 will be realised, making a total of \$275,688 received from the sale of land, which would be sufficient to erect and fully equip the eight new cottages. Of the land set apart for sale there would then still remain 19 acres, or so outside of the present walls of the grounds. There was, however, a good deal of good brick clay in this portion which was of such use in the Central Prison industries that it was not proposed to place it on the market for a few years. These extra receipts brought the receipts for the year up to \$3,587,421 78. The hon. treasurer then proceeded to discuss the

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR.

The expenditure for the past year was as follows:—

Civil Government.....	\$200,685 24
Legislation.....	127,030 77
Administration of justice.....	373,898 80
Education.....	579,465 30
Public institutions maintenance..	721,652 69
Immigration.....	7,952 39
Agriculture.....	137,054 46
Hospitals and charities.....	113,686 14
Repairs and maintenance P. B....	69,229 54
Public buildings.....	291,423 56
Public works.....	42,870 71
Colonisation roads.....	112,273 56
Charges on Crown Lands.....	96,734 47
Consolidation of statutes.....	31,394 99
Miscellaneous.....	74,030 67
Refunds.....	27,703 73

Ordinary expenditure under Supply Bill.....	\$3,007,037 02
Drainage debentures.....	47,684 92
Title.....	11,100 00
Railway aid certificates.....	247,362 14
Annuity certificates.....	52,200 00
Widows' pensions.....	11,041 15
New Parliament Buildings.....	159,203 23
	\$3,536,248 46

There had been an excess of expenditure over estimates, the hon. Treasurer explained, on the first item of \$1,945 24, on legislation of \$4,980 77. Most of this excess was on account of stationery, printing, etc., which was \$2,864 in excess of last year. This was an item in the control of the members of the House and had increased as the volume of the various reports called for by the House increased. The cost of indexing last year also amounted to \$1,278 69. Other work was done and expenses were incurred that were not included in the estimate. In the item for administration of justice the excess of \$2,575 75 over the estimate arose from the expenses incurred in the constitutional litigation to which the Province had been subjected. The item for this had been estimated at \$12,000 and had amounted to \$21,332. This was on account of the expenses in the Indian title case, of the litigation in connection with which he hoped the Province had now seen the last. Ontario had every reason to be satisfied with the judgments in the various cases it had carried to the Privy Council, but it had ample reason also for protesting against the large outlay to which it had been subjected. The total of expenditure in connection with the Indian title case amounted to \$112,694 exclusive of the cost of holding possession. He held that the Dominion should reimburse the Province for these expenses. Sir John Macdonald had himself admitted the liability of the Dominion. The hon. speaker then quoted from the 1885 budget speech of Hon. Mr. Robertson, then Quebec treasurer, in which he had stated that Sir John Macdonald had promised him that all the costs of the appeal in the license case would be paid by the Dominion. The same promise had been repeated by Mr. Robertson in a letter written by Sir John on January 19th, 1887. In 1885, also, Manitoba had been granted large sums in addition to her subsidy, as stated in the Act, "as a full settlement of all claims made by said Province for reimbursement of costs incurred in the government of the disputed territory, or the reference of the boundary question to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council." So Manitoba not only had its costs of appeal repaid, but even was paid for its unlawful occupation of our territory. Ontario's claim, he insisted, was good for all the costs to which it had been subjected by the references to the Privy Council of these litigation questions. The expenses of the Education Department were \$1,947 below the estimate.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

The annual expenditure in connection with the public institutions of the Province was very large, amounting to nearly a fourth of the entire revenue of the Province, and absorbing two-thirds of the en-