

THE ONTARIO BUDGET.

Treasurer Harcourt's Able Financial Statement.

THE YEAR'S REVENUE.

Receipts Exceed Last Year's Estimate.

WHERE THE MONEY WENT.

Extravagance and Parsimony Avoided.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS DISCUSSED
—PROBABLE EXPENDITURE FOR THE
YEAR—A BRIGHT OUTLOOK.

TORONTO, Feb. 19, 1892.

Hon. R. Harcourt, Provincial Treasurer, delivered his annual financial statement this afternoon in a clear and comprehensive speech. Owing to the illness of Mr. H. E. Clarke, who usually criticises the budget on behalf of the Opposition, that duty fell upon Mr. Clancy.

Mr. Harcourt, who was loudly cheered on rising, said:—For the second time, Mr. Speaker, I ask the indulgence of the House while, as briefly and as clearly as I can, I discuss first the financial operations of the Province for the year just closed, and secondly, take a prospective view of the operations of the year upon which we are now entering. Were it not that these financial questions have a perennial interest for our ratepayers I would shrink from my task, since in these yearly statements much repetition is unavoidable, and a somewhat wearisome recital of figures seems absolutely indispensable. When I remember, however, that our position financially is an enviable one, that our progress has been both steady and marked, that we have been able year by year to meet so many demands in the way of new undertakings and give increased aid to educational, charitable and agricultural institutions, and at the same time keep in reserve a large surplus upon which we can draw to meet emergency expenditures, my task seems to grow lighter and I enter upon it with less fear of wearying the House.

RECEIPTS OF THE PROVINCE.

I will first speak very briefly of our receipts. We estimated to receive during the year from ordinary sources \$3,293,822. We actually received \$3,327,570, so that we have an excess of receipts over our estimate to the amount of \$28,248, a result which is, I am sure, very satisfactory to the House. I need say but little as to several of our well-known items of receipts.

The subsidy, of course, remains the same. It represents 80 cents per head of our population according to the census of 1861. Ac-