

position in regard to railway matters. What had the member for Kent to say about the \$1,500,000 which the former Government had committed the present Administration to for railways? This amount had to be deducted from the \$4,000,000 in the treasury when this Government came into power in 1871. It was said that the former Government had left vast timber limits that should have been husbanded; but the hon. member and the whole Province knew that the present Government had been doing this for the past 21 years, and at the same time relieving the people of the burdens of taxation in every way. (Applause and hear, hear.) Not only had they husbanded the resources, but they had added to them. The timber resources of the Province instead of being diminished had been increased, and the Government had preserved to the country the disputed territory with its vast resources in spite of the opposition of the party at Ottawa, supported as they were to some extent by the Opposition in this House. (Applause.) The Opposition could not point out an item in the expenditure that could be cut down. Where, he asked, was money to be obtained to carry on the business of the Province if not from the timber limits, real estate and other assets? Did the hon. member for Kent think they could run this country on wind? (Laughter.) He believed that even if the Government erected windmills for the purpose of running the Province they would have the hon. members on the other side going forth to do battle against the windmills. (Renewed laughter.) The member for Kent argued that the Government only had some \$17,000 to the good, but what about that \$725,000 for drainage sureties, and also that \$4,500,000 that the Dominion Government were anxious to be relieved from looking after and had asked them to take over, giving \$500,000 as an earnest of their willingness to pay over the full amount? The hon. member had said that the Province was unable to meet its liabilities, but he could assure him that this Province has never been in that position. They had large assets and a surplus that would meet every liability for many years to come. (Applause.) Then with regard to the license question the hon. member for Kent had said that the municipalities used to have control of their own funds and receipts, but did not control them now. Did he mean to say that the Government had interfered with the right of municipalities to raise and control money in this way? The hon. member had endeavored to convey the impression that the Government had interfered with the municipalities, and that the municipalities had received only a fraction of the money they should have received. It was a fact that the municipalities received more from this source than ever before, and a very small proportion of them had levied the full amount to which they were entitled under the present law. Only four cities had imposed the full amount, and in all only 39 municipalities had taken full advantage of the measure to increase their revenue from this source, thus showing that no grievance existed in this respect.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

Then the member for Kent said the Government had drawn upon capital account, that they were doing so every year, that the capital account is growing less every year, and that twenty years hence there would be no account to draw upon. Well, at all events they could rest easily for the present and enjoy at least twenty years of prosperity. (Laughter.) Of the \$17,000,000 that had been received from the sale of Crown lands, over \$1,000,000 had been expended on colonisation roads, and the Government had simply invested this money in other ways for the general benefit of this Province. The hon. member found fault with the issuing of annuities and said that no man in this building would ever see them paid. In saying this he was evidently not in accord with the hon. member for Toronto, Mr. H. E. Clarke, who in February,

1884, said that in all fairness he was compelled to approve of the policy of the Government on this point, as he did not see why the present generation should burden itself with taxation in order that generations to come might reap the benefit. (Applause.) The hon. member for Kent said they were compelled to make a raid upon the Dominion treasury to get money, but he would like to ask him where they ever advocated a raid upon the treasury. He contended that this Province had not received its fair share of the amounts to which it was entitled, and that if the terms of the Interprovincial Conference had been carried into effect this Province would be receiving to-day a much larger sum from the Dominion Government. The member for Kent said that there was a debt against the Government of \$3,107,000 for annuities, but this could hardly be classed as a debt, as it was not presently payable, and even if they were to capitalise it \$2,000,000 in cash would pay it all off, and this was only \$500,000 more than when this Government came into power. He proceeded to point out the disposition that had been made of the \$500,000 received from the Dominion Government during the past year, showing that the expenditures were for wise and beneficent purposes and in the best interests of the Province. Complaint was made that the Government had incurred large expenditures without the authority of the House, but the speaker pointed out that they had been empowered to dispose of the asylum grounds and other property for the purpose of providing funds for the new Parliament buildings. It would not be a judicious thing to tie the Government down to time and manner of raising funds since they had so many resources. Besides, they had the surplus to draw upon and could issue annuities also. (Laughter.) In conclusion, Mr. Balfour pointed out the weakness of the Opposition's case, and suggested to Mr. Clancy that in future when dealing with the budget he should endeavor to be a little fairer and give the Government credit for wisdom, economy and forethought. (Applause.)

Mr. A. F. Wood (North Hastings) followed Mr. Balfour, and remarked that although that gentleman said he was going to deal tenderly with Mr. Clancy he had not spared him to any great extent. The member for Essex sometimes made good speeches on municipal matters, but on this occasion he did not think his speech had added much strength to the Government's position. They had been accused of making blue-ruin speeches, but it was due to the country that they should seek to ascertain the exact position of affairs. He then pointed out several instances in which he considered the true position had not been fully set forth.

THE COUNTRY SATISFIED.

Mr. W. B. Wood, member for North Brant, said that he was satisfied with the speech of the last member, as there was really nothing in it that reflected upon the Administration or budget of the hon. Treasurer. This House and the country at large was too well satisfied to find fault with the budget statement, and the chief fault found by the Opposition seemed to be with the skilful and masterly way in which it had been presented. If the hon. members would join with them in congratulating the Province on its splendid assets he did not think they would fall in the estimation of the people. These assets he understood were now supplying the country with from one-quarter to one-third of the annual revenue. With regard to licenses he claimed that the municipalities were not complaining, and he accused the Opposition of withholding the fact that any moneys derived from such sources had been wisely expended in advancing the agricultural, educational and other interests of the Province.

Mr. Whitney, member for Dundas, followed, and occupied the attention of the House until adjournment at 6 o'clock. He complimented the Treasurer very highly on the tone of his budget speech. In past years they had been accustomed to quite a