

we do not add one dollar to our liabilities, nor do we decrease our surplus to the extent of a dollar. We postpone the payment of the railway aid certificates, and replace them with these annuities. From 1872 to 1883, inclusive, we each year promptly retired these railway aid certificates, which represent the railway obligations of the province incurred in its pioneer days, our total expenditure for this one purpose for the period named being \$3,658,096. We also retired the certificates which matured in 1888, 1889 and 1890, and paid out in doing so \$744,645. In other words, in 15 years out of 21 we paid off our maturing railway certificates the day they became due. In 6 years only out of 21 have we postponed payment by means of our sales of annuities. We

deferred payment during the years referred to because of our large exceptional expenditures during those years, such as that in connection with the construction of these new buildings. It will not be necessary to sell annuities this year or next year, inasmuch as we will have ample funds wherewith to retire the maturing railway aid certificates and meet all our other requirements.

To sum up what I wished to say as to our receipts for the year, I will only add, as hon. members will notice, that they are greatly in excess of our estimate. We estimated that we would receive \$3,266,572. We actually received \$4,457,478, a difference on the right side of \$1,190,906. I speak, of course, of ordinary receipts, and do not include payments made to us on account of drainage debentures, or the proceeds of the sale of our annuities.

#### EXPENDITURE.

I will now speak briefly of the expenditures of 1892. Our expenditure for civil government was under the sum voted by \$3,800. It exceeded the expenditure of 1891 owing partly to the fact that a new department had been added, viz., the bureau of mines, which entailed an expenditure last year of \$6,161. The usefulness of such a bureau is not questioned. Indeed, we are blamed for not spending more money in connection with the development of our mineral resources. Our first expenditure for the bureau of mines was in 1891, the amount being \$1,680, which in that year was charged, however, not under civil government, but under crown lands expenditure.

The volume of work in the insurance department has greatly increased, and this involves additional expense. This last increase is more than counterbalanced, however, by the increased revenue derived from the same department, to which I have already alluded. As is to be expected, the work of the various departments is constantly expanding. An ever-increasing volume of business requires more clerks from time to time. Within a period of five years, for example, the work in the treasury department has almost doubled. Within that time the number of letters received by the department and the number sent has more than doubled. In 1887 we issued 10,011 checks, and in 1892 14,673. The same statement applies to the other departments, and, if the work is to be efficiently done, an increased expenditure is unavoidable.

In making comparisons between different years as to the cost of civil government, it must not be forgotten that our expenditures for salaries and expenses in connection with education were not charged to civil government until 1879, and that the transferring of mechanics' institutes from agriculture to education in 1886 also added to the cost of civil government.

#### PROVINCIAL HEALTH BOARD.

The business of the province is not being conducted in a more costly manner now than heretofore. From time to time we have been compelled to make provision for new services and to undertake new functions. We spent last year on account of the provincial board of health \$8,075, a sum exceeding the average of the last five years by \$701. We cannot overestimate the importance of the work assigned to this board, of the vast interests committed to its keeping. At this very juncture we may well consider in what way its efficiency and usefulness may best be increased. The dread visitation of cholera of last year, from which this continent so fortunately escaped, and the fear there may be a fresh outbreak as virulent and more widespread this year demand unremitting care and caution on the part of all those whose duty it is in any way to safeguard the public health. Not only have we to keep in view the possibility of an outbreak of cholera; we must also remember that towards the close of last year and since that time both typhoid

fever and diphtheria have been alarmingly prevalent in some of the large cities, such as Philadelphia and St. Louis, and that the supposed cause of these epidemics, namely, an impure water supply, may some day lead to similar serious trouble nearer home. The members of this house can do much, our newspapers—the very best agency we have for educating the public in sanitary matters—are doing much in the way of dispelling those prejudices which seem to interfere with the increasing usefulness of our local boards. It is to be hoped that our people will promptly aid the local boards in adopting every possible precaution so as to strengthen their defences and thus secure, comparatively speaking, at any rate, an immunity from some of the very worst forms of disease which afflict humanity.

Our provincial board, as we all know, has on more than one occasion during the ten years of its existence proved its usefulness. No matter how well timed and excellent our health legislation may be it can only produce the desired results through the active intervention of skilful experts who have specially devoted themselves to the investigation of the various conditions and circumstances which favor the diffusion or the prevention of disease. Our boards aim, as do all health departments, at making the sanitary experiences of very locality a guide for the local boards and authorities in every other locality. Its officers by investigating the causes of the prevalence of infectious diseases in this or that locality, by conference with the local boards, by examining the sanitary conditions, become skilful in pointing out the weak spots and determining the cause of the trouble. England furnishes the best possible illustration of the immense value of an efficient sanitary department and of the plain fact that sanitation and salubrity go together. That sanitary improvement in England has been marked is conclusively shown by the fact that the death rate from cholera has rapidly diminished on the occasion of each successive outbreak. These outbreaks, occurring after intervals of several years, were equally virulent, so that the marked diminution in the death rate could only be attributed to sanitary reform. No such diminution can be pointed to in other European countries where sanitary legislation has been less active and where efficient health departments have not been established. In the light of last year's experience we may rejoice to know that an ever-increasing attention is being paid to matters of health and quarantine and that the gospel of pure water, efficient drainage and cleanliness generally is being vigorously preached almost the whole world over.

#### THE PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT.

For legislation we spent nearly \$8,000 more than our estimate. We did not spend all that the house authorized as to some items such as salaries and the library. On the other hand the stationery, printing and binding accounts were unusually large. It is in the power of the house and of the printing committee to limit and control these items. If extensive returns and voluminous reports and large editions of them are insisted upon the responsibility in connection with the extra expense incident to printing and binding cannot fairly be charged to the government. I do not say that the extra printing in connection with our work of last session involved a waste of money. For example, the statutes of last session contain 1,000 pages, being twice as many as the volume of the previous year. The volumes for 1888 and 1889, taken together, contain only 642 pages. The cost of printing the statutes of 1892 was \$7,394. The 1891 volume cost only \$3,580. Last year's volume is the largest we have ever published. The volume containing the consolidated municipal and assessment acts, so useful to all municipal officers and the public generally, cost over \$1,500. In 1887 we had six volumes of sessional papers, containing 4,392 pages. In 1892 we had eight volumes, containing 5,830 pages. The printing and binding of the six volumes cost \$4,704, while the cost of the eight volumes was \$6,867. The number of the reports and other official documents published for the legislative assembly and the departments has been steadily increasing. There has been an increase in the number of more than 50 per cent. since 1887. The number published last year exceeds that of 1891 by 32,000. We spent for publishing these reports \$12,600 more in 1892 than we did in 1887.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

For administration of justice we spent \$391,653, being \$7,279 less than we spent