

of the Dominion government was greatly to the detriment of the farmers of the country as compared with that of the Ontario government. The people of Ontario, and especially the farmers, had repeatedly manifested their approval of the policy of the Dominion government, and until they withdrew that confidence it was not for any member of the house to make such a comparison. Mr. Balfour had taken credit for the government for the diminution in the number of liquor licenses, but he (Mr. Campbell) was of the opinion that this was due not to any action of the government, but to the progress of temperance sentiment throughout the country. Mr. Balfour had also commended the government for having induced settlement in the districts of Nipissing and Algoma, but the fact was that the increase in population was more due to the extension of the railway through these districts than to any legislation initiated by the government. The policy of the government in regard to the development of the mineral resources had not been successful. The new and bright period of prosperity foretold by Mr. Harcourt had

not been realized. The government's policy had been such as to retard rather than encourage the development of the mineral resources of the country, a fact which was proved by the demonstration of the people in the mineral districts, who were up in arms against it. They had gone so far as to propose a separation of the mineral districts from the province. In regard to the government's timber policy the opposition contended that if the affairs of the province were administered economically there would not be the necessity of entering upon the timber resources so frequently as was done. But for the timber sale of last year there would have been no cash balance in the bank to the credit of the province. In 1891 the government had converted \$500,000 of Dominion bonds, and in 1892 had held a timber sale in order to ward off a deficit. The government was rapidly encroaching upon the capital of the province in order to make a favorable financial showing. But how, it was asked, were the affairs of the province to be carried on unless the capital of the province were drawn upon? By economy in the administration. He asked the government to adopt a more liberal policy in regard to settlement in the newer districts of the province. There was a great outcry against the course pursued by the government and their officials in dealing with settlers.

MR. TAIT OF TORONTO.

Mr. Tait said that it would be of great importance if hon. gentlemen opposite, before they began to discuss these questions, would hold a caucus and make up their minds what they were going to say, so that all might say the same thing and sing the same tune. If, as some hon. gentlemen said, the province was to get no revenue from the Dominion subsidies, from licenses, or the sale of timber limits and crown lands, where was the revenue to come from? and if saying that revenue was not to be got from these sources was not attacking the sources of revenue he would like to know what constituted such an attack. In regard to the old song that the government had no surplus—that they were spending too much money—he had heard that criticism ever since he had heard any criticism at all in the house. Mr. Campbell had said that great success had attended the educational campaign of the province. They had taught the people that there was no surplus; and he had said no man could go before an intelligent audience and say that the government was not extravagant. Referring to a statement by Mr. Wood, Mr. Campbell had said that no man had the right to criticize the Dominion government and say that they had done nothing in the public interest until the people said so. He (Mr. Tait) did not say that the argument was a good one, but if it was to be applied to Mr. Wood's remarks in reference to Dominion matters it was equally good to be applied to Mr. Campbell and his friends in reference to provincial matters. As to the surplus, he did not know that it was a matter of boastfulness to the members on the government side of the house. A financial statement had been presented, in which the full facts were stated. He did not see why the members opposite were so exceedingly anxious to prove that there was no money in the public treasury. If the government had managed the affairs of the province wisely and well, if they had not misspent the money of the people and if there was not a cent in the treasury, if there were not funds yielding large annual revenue, they would not be entitled to blame, while, on the other

hand, if they had not spent the money wisely and well the fact of the existence of a surplus would not be a sufficient justification. Members opposite had sought to show that there was very little actually in the treasury. All that the province had bearing interest was its treasury; wherever its assets were, wherever the province had property, yielding a revenue, its treasury was in reference to the liability. Mr. Campbell had said that the government should take no credit for the number of licenses. He (Mr. Tait) was simple enough to believe that it was the moral sentiment of the community that had reduced the number of licenses. If he was simple enough to believe that the moral sentiment of the people, without being crystallized into legislation, had reduced the number of licenses, then he was a great deal simpler than he (Mr. Tait) took him to be. It was true that the moral sentiment of the community had reduced the number of licenses for the reason that it had caused the government to take the matter in hand and bring in legislation making provision for the reduction. Yet the municipalities were getting a good deal more out of the licenses than formerly. Mr. Campbell, while blaming the government for having sold timber at good prices, was willing that they should take money out of the treasury and hand it over to pay for taking away our mineral wealth. Good prices were obtained at the last two timber sales, but, instead of hon. gentlemen opposite being pleased, they found fault that the timber should have been sold; yet of the timber sold, 468 1-2 square miles in extent had been given away by their friends in Ottawa before it was shown to be the property of the province, for the paltry sum of \$2,342. Referring to Mr. Whitney's complaint that facilities for full inquiry into the expenditures of the province were not afforded at the public accounts committee, Mr. Tait created amusement by reading from the official report of the public accounts committee the dialogue between the member for Muskoka and the bursar of the Toronto asylum regarding the cost of linen for the nurses' caps. He thought inquiries on such trivial subjects were altogether too small, even for members of the opposition. Coming back to the question of the surplus, he showed that, in addition to the interest annually received from the funds now in the hands of the Dominion government, a large part of the capital was received by the provincial treasurer during the past year. If there was room for any considerable reduction in the expenditure of the province, where, he asked, would they begin? Would they cut off the grants to charity, and leave the whole burden to the municipality? Speaking on the timber reserves he likened the query of the opposition, "What would the timber of the province be worth if none of it had been sold?" to the remark of an old farmer, "Where would you have been to-day if your grandmother had been a man?" Both were equally pointless. If some portions of the timber had not been sold, fires and other causes would have robbed the province of much of the revenue received from that source. He hoped that the government would long go on, not reducing the expenditure for the mere purpose of building up a surplus, but in aiding the various charitable undertakings of the province. If in the future there was not so large a revenue from the crown lands as now, then some other system of raising revenue would have to be adopted to aid those institutions.

MR. McCLEARY OF WELLAND.

Mr. McCleary, member for Welland, followed, and proceeded to dispute the arguments of the hon. members for North Brant and Toronto. He paid a graceful compliment to the treasurer, Hon. Mr. Harcourt, for the clear and intelligible manner in which he presented the financial statement of the year. One mistake the hon. treasurer made, however, was his continued reference to the mythical surplus, which existed, he went on to indicate, only in the imagination of the government. He claimed that the temperance people of the province were not indebted to the government for any legislation that had been given, because everything they had done along that line had been pulled and dragged out of them. It being 6 o'clock the speaker left the chair.

MR. WATERS OF MIDDLESEX.

Mr. Waters, speaking after recess, said that he was very much astonished to hear Mr. Campbell make the statement that the government's mining policy was a hindrance rather than an encourage-