

failure, hoping that it might retrieve itself. (Opposition applause.) Now what was the entire cost of the maintenance of the Ontario Agricultural College, the management of which, he said, had been such a disappointment to the country? He would take the period of five years, because during the last five years the department had been presided over by a Minister, and the public and the House have a right to expect the improvement promised from this important departure. Mr. Clancy referred to the manner in which the Opposition had opposed the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture, quoting the terms of the resolution moved on that occasion. The total amount expended during these five years on account of the college was \$469,077, apportioned as follows:—Civil government, \$64,222; for repairs, etc., \$35,000; for public buildings, \$83,000; for salaries and wages, \$127,085; for other expenses, \$134,900; for stock purchases, \$25,872. On the other hand there had been receipts which totalled for the five years \$81,252. The receipts came from sale of produce, sale of stock, tuition fees, fees for board, revenue from the experimental dairy and the creamery and from sundry small sources. This meant, said Mr. Clancy, a loss to the Province during the five years of the great sum of \$387,825, unless it could be shown that the results achieved were in an educational sense or otherwise in any way commensurate with this expenditure. That this could be done Mr. Clancy emphatically denied. It would not be reasonable that such administration should make ends meet, but it was to be expected there would be less disproportion than existed. There was too much money expended on stock in comparison with the proceeds from sales and in comparison with the very disappointing results. In respect to salaries, there had been an increase from \$21,453 for the year 1883 to \$35,930 for 1893. The number of students had not in the meantime increased. The salaries paid at the college were higher than they should be. Mr. Clancy quoted average salaries paid to teachers in Collegiate Institutes at Brantford, Brockville, Strathroy, Whitby, Woodstock, points in the constituencies of the different members of the Government, and also at Guelph, and showed that the average salary paid to the members of the college staff was much higher than was paid in any of those places, an unnecessary extravagance altogether. Mr. Clancy proceeded to argue that it was evident from the returns as to the attendance of the students, from the fact that students who went there for one year often did not go the second year, and very seldom indeed went the third year, that the college was regarded as of little practical account.

Hon. Mr. Ross—That is right, run the Province down.

Mr. Clancy—I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, what we are here for? Here Mr. Clancy had to pause for a moment to allow the Ministerial side of the House to laugh at and ironically applaud his somewhat untoward remark.

Mr. Clancy, resuming, said in spite of the odium which was sought to be thrown upon his side of the House, that was the side of the House which could be depended upon to show up the extravagance and misgovernment of hon. gentlemen opposite. He claimed that an investigation into the facts in connection with the Agricultural College showed that it was a veritable sinkhole for the money of the people of the Province. (Opposition applause.)

Continuing, Mr. Clancy dwelt on the large increase in the cost of government in Ontario since 1871. At that date the expenditure per head was \$1 12; in 1881 it had risen to \$1 34 per head, and in 1891 it showed the astonishing increase to \$1 97 per head. In spite of this the Government expenditure per head for educational purposes was smaller in Ontario than in any other Province. The Maritime Provinces gave 50 cents per head for this purpose, while Ontario gave but eighteen cents per head. In many other ways the other Provinces relieved the municipalities of various burdens which they had to bear in Ontario. He would like to know what became of the money taken in such enormous sums from the people. Now in regard to the money expended on account of Public and Separate Schools. The per capita expenditure in 1873 was 13 cents. In 1883, in spite of the increased population, etc., the per capita expenditure had decreased to 12 1-2 cents, and in 1893 the per capita expenditure for the purpose of primary education was only 11 1-2 cents. It was a remarkable and astonishing commentary on the course of the Government that with its enormous expenditure this was all it could do to aid the overburdened municipalities in the important matter of primary education. (Opposition applause.)

Mr. Clancy then turned to the great and increasing revenue from the Crown Lands Department by its timber sales, first denouncing emphatically such sales as being

an improper expenditure of the capital of the Province. The Government had received great increases from its License Department, from the increased subsidy from the Dominion by the act of 1884, and from other sources. In spite of this they were continually making additional inroads on the capital of the Province. He insisted that so far from the people of the country being satisfied with such a record and with the results attained, they had every reason to feel the keenest disappointment. Touching on the question of railway certificates, Mr. Clancy said the amount already paid on their account was nearly equal to that of the original grant; yet instead of the amount being nearly wiped out, over one-half remained to be paid. It could not be contended that the Province was in a position to pay that amount now. Mr. Clancy referred to the statement of the Attorney-General in South Ontario that these railway securities drew no interest. Yet the amount originally voted was something over \$5,000,000, while it would take over \$8,000,000 to pay it. Instead of there being no interest on these securities, the interest was added on the face of them, and it was unworthy of the Attorney-General that he should attempt to mislead the people in such a matter. (Opposition applause.) The sum apparently paid on railway aid certificates was \$5,959,084, and yet the amount actually paid was but \$4,998,000, the explanation being that there had been a rearrangement of accounts. Yet not a dollar had been added to the surplus by this. From year to year a timber sale is announced, with no consultation of the House. The Commissioner had not the courage to say to the House that money was needed, but the Deputy Minister was put up to assign various reasons that the timber should be sold. It was idle to pretend that the sale was prompted simply by a desire to put the asset into another form; the Government wanted the money, though they would not admit it. The House should be consulted before timber was sold, as Mr. Meredith had moved. Moreover, a stock-taking should be held, and the people shown what their assets were really worth. Both propositions had been voted down by the Government. Mr. Clancy then referred to the sale of 1872, and the charges made that this had been effected without any valuation, and for a mere song handed over to the purchasers for what they chose to pay. Nothing was more worthy of condemnation in the history of the Province. Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's four sales were to provide for the debts he thought due to the Dominion, and he did not spend a dollar of the proceeds upon the current expenditure.

Mr. Clancy then turned to the consideration of the surplus, the Government view of which he declared to be unworthy of the attention of business men. Formerly the surplus was simply the difference between the receipts and expenditure of the current year, but under the present Government there had been deficits for fourteen of the 22 years, and in the whole period the Government had spent nearly \$4,000,000 more than they had received of current revenue, and yet they claimed a surplus. What were the people to understand by the statements made in the House by hon. gentlemen opposite? They claimed that a sum of over \$3,000,000 had been set aside to the credit of the Province. Of course nothing of the kind had been done. They had met current expenditure out of the sales of timber, instead of keeping it to increase in value, and decreased the capital by that much, and then they turned to yet another asset, and claimed that it was a surplus. It was formerly styled an asset, and would eventually be regarded and styled as such when it came unimpaired, as he trusted it would, into the hands of the opponents of the present Government. The surplus was nothing but a rag baby, which the Treasurer tried to palm off as the legitimate offspring of an economical Government. They found a surplus when they assumed the Government, but they had spent that and a sum of alarming proportions besides. It was preposterous to call by the name of a surplus that which was nothing but an old unsettled account between the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. (Opposition applause.) The hon. gentlemen opposite could not be expected to change their policy and condemn themselves before the people: a change of policy could only come from a change of men. (Applause from Opposition benches.) A general election was pending, and the Government declared themselves ready to go to the country on the strength of their financial policy. They of the Opposition gladly accepted the challenge, and he hoped and was confident that the power would be placed in the hands of those who had the courage and honesty to protest against the course of the Government. The electors of the country would speak out untrammelled and free, and would show where they placed confidence. (Opposition applause.)