

One of the points of difference between the Government and Opposition was that regarding the timber resources of the Province. It behooved the Government to husband and take care of its timber.

Wipes Out the Surplus.

Mr. Marter laid himself out to prove that the boasted surplus of the Government did not exist. He challenged the statement of the Treasurer that the Sandfield Macdonald Government had a surplus of only \$1,350,000. The surplus, as a matter of fact, was \$3,810,966 in cash and bonds. The present Government had in drainage and tile debentures and in cash \$616,206. That amount represented what the Sandfield Macdonald Government had in bonds and debentures of \$3,810,000, so that there had been a shrinkage under the present Administration of \$3,194,286. The Sandfield Macdonald Government received from their cash savings invested \$148,703 in 1871, whereas the present Government in 1896 had received only \$46,026, the difference in favor of the former being \$107,677. In 1871 the Macdonald Government received from capital held and debts due by the Dominion to Ontario \$140,318, while the present Government received from that source \$214,528. For this the Government could not claim any credit. Mr. Marter made a calculation as to the financial position of the Province. While he said there were available assets of drainage debentures and cash of \$616,206, there were liabilities of \$4,316,630. Despite the protest of the Premier he persisted in treating the railway certificates as liabilities. The receipts of the Province since Confederation to the present were \$89,365,700, and the expenditures \$89,131,561, leaving a balance on the right side of \$233,000. The Treasurer himself had admitted the liabilities to be \$2,732,865, for the payment of which there was only \$233,000, so that there was a deficit of \$2,499,865. Mr. Marter asked the Treasurer to explain that if he could.

Mr. Harcourt arose to comply with the request.

"The receipts and the expenditures," he said, "were the revenues and expenditures of the Province from the first year down to 1896. But the Province started with millions to the good."

"Where did it get them?" asked Mr. Marter.

"Does my hon. friend want me to answer that question? I have stated it repeatedly."

"Let the hon. gentleman take five minutes, and I will take five minutes to assist him."

"If I were outside the House I would say that the language which the hon. gentleman has just used is the language of a mountebank."

"I am glad that at last we have got face to face and that he cannot answer."

The incident was closed and the Speaker declared it was 6 o'clock.

More Details Wanted.

Mr. Marter had a word of complaint to utter about the public accounts of the Province. They were not explicit enough, he said, to show in detail how the public money is expended. To get at the facts it was necessary to go to

the Public Accounts Committee and ask for the production of the vouchers. The Public Accounts Committee was unable to investigate every account of the Province, as its meetings were limited in number and duration of time. He held up the report of the Dominion Auditor-General as a model to guide the Provincial Auditor. Mr. Marter came back to the question of railway certificates. He said that by the system deferring the payment of railway subsidies for 40 years a subsidy at the rate of \$3,000 a mile was swelled into a subsidy of \$10,000 a mile, \$7,000 of which went not to the railway but to the persons who collected interest on the securities. He advocated the adoption of the policy of purchasing supplies for the public institutions by tender. He made the declaration that the saving in prices and discounts would be sufficient to pay the salaries of the Ministers. He called upon the Government to impose upon limit holders the obligation to manufacture timber in this country. This, he said, was the policy that the Conservatives had advocated for years. From the speech which the Premier had delivered a few days ago he concluded that the Government did not propose to grant the request of those Canadian lumbermen who had represented that because of the disadvantages at which they were placed they could not stand against the competition of the Americans who are taking away Ontario's logs. Mr. Marter promised that when he and his friends came into power they would put into force the Conservative policy. That they were coming into power was beyond question. It was in the air.

An Unpatriotic Course.

Hon. Mr. Gibson expressed surprise that an hon. gentleman who had been so long in public life should make such puerile statements as the hon. gentleman who had just taken his seat had offered. It was almost more than one's patience could stand to be called upon to rise and reply to such childish statements. Plunging at once into the boundary question he asserted that the Government had charged that the hon. gentlemen opposite were pursuing an unpatriotic course in this matter and of playing into the hands of their fellow-Conservatives in the Dominion House. The charge had been made then, had been made since, and the country and the House knew that the charges were true. Had the Opposition risen and voted as one man with the Government and showed Sir John Macdonald that the Conservatives of the Province were determined to protect the rights of the Province there would have been a settlement of the matter within a year's time. On the other hand, the Dominion Government was, by their action, encouraged, at all events was not discouraged, by hon. gentlemen who were in Opposition in this House. The hon. gentleman who had just spoken had proclaimed himself a follower of Sir John Macdonald, and he had repudiated Sir Charles Tupper, Sir John Thompson, Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Sir John Abbott. He (Hon. Mr. Gibson) knew of no more effective repudiation than that by which the hon. gentleman had over and over again asserted himself as a follower of Sir John Macdonald to the exclusion of all other leaders who fol-