

last year, at least ten or fifteen thousand dollars less. (Cheers.) These figures show that our position in this regard is constantly improving. The price realized last year was more favorable than that of any previous year.

Altogether we have received from sales of annuities since 1884, \$2,066,529. These are special receipts.

On ten different occasions since 1884 instead of meeting the railway aid payments out of ordinary receipts we postponed them by issuing and selling these annuities, and with the proceeds of the sales retiring the railway aid certificates.

In five of the years intervening since 1884 we have met the maturing railway aid payments out of the year's ordinary receipts. They are special receipts, it is true, and they are applied in meeting special payments. From their sale, as I have already said, we have received altogether \$2,066,000. But during the same years we have paid out in aid of railways \$3,076,966, and for the erection of much-needed public buildings \$5,757,069. It is not expected in any country that the ordinary budget receipts will leave a margin for large outlays upon what is called capital account. At the same time, every one admits that such outlays are of vital importance to the prosperity of the country. Surely subventions to railways aggregating millions of dollars and expenditures on new buildings amounting to millions more come within the category of extraordinary expenditures. Our critics seek most unfairly to apply to this Province rules and classifications concerning expenditures never applied elsewhere. (Cheers.)

#### The Casual Revenue.

I need say but little about our casual revenue, made up as it is of a considerable number of miscellaneous receipts which do not admit of more precise classification. The total receipt under this head is large, and we may expect it to increase. In 1898 it amounted to \$116,578. Of this sum we received \$28,339 from the Provincial Secretary's Department, and of this latter sum nearly \$24,000 represents fees paid for charters of incorporation.

Our Inspectors' Department is more than self-sustaining, and the same remark applies, and with greater force, to our Insurance Department. It cannot be said of these departments that their receipts are really expenditures masquerading under the guise of receipts.

Under the Ontario insurance act we received last year \$17,825, and \$10,503 under the loan corporations act.

Our total receipts for 1898 were, I repeat, \$3,647,353, being less than last year's total by \$492,494. Our Crown lands receipts this year were \$496,703 less than those of last year. Our deficiency, therefore, in this year's total receipts compared with last year's is more than accounted for by the falling off in our Crown lands receipts. Our receipts from mining lands this year were considerably less than those of last year. On the other hand, our total receipts for the year were larger than

those of either of the years 1894, 1895 or 1896.

#### Expenditures Reduced.

I will now, Mr. Speaker, refer very hurriedly to the expenditures of the Province for 1898. Our total expenditures for the year amounted to \$3,802,941, and exceeded those of the previous year by only \$35,265. We spent last year on revision of the statutes \$43,851. The holding of the general elections last year involved an expenditure of \$89,658. Omitting, then, these last two very special items, the one occurring only once in ten years and the other once in four years, our expenditures for 1898 were not only considerably less than those of 1897, but they were also less than those of any year since 1889, a period of eight years. This last decennial revision and consolidation of the statutes, to which I have just referred, the desirability and necessity of which no one ever pretends to question, cost the Province altogether \$76,936. The bulk of the work was done and paid for in the years 1897 and 1898. The previous consolidation, that of ten years ago, cost somewhat more, viz., \$79,941.

#### Fostering Agriculture.

Our expenditure for agriculture and arts last year exceeded that of any previous year by the considerable sum of \$15,000. We spent for this purpose \$37,465 more than we did five years ago, and \$67,984 more than we did ten years ago. It is very evident, Mr. Speaker, that this Legislature is anxious to do everything in its power to foster and encourage this our most important industry. (Cheers.)

When at work in this chamber, with a sense of full responsibility resting on our shoulders, we deliberately, after debate, inquiry and discussion, increase our appropriations for agriculture year by year, almost by leaps and bounds, and the same remark is equally true of our grants for education; and yet some of us, Mr. Speaker, when outside of this House, ignoring details or particulars, forgetful of our responsibility, loudly complain of increased expenditures. Take these increased expenditures one by one, item by item, discuss them fairly, and it will be invariably found that the growth of the Province generally, the opening up and settling of its new districts and the development of all our resources, the keeping pace with modern requirements and new conditions, inexorably demand them. (Cheers.)

In our case, not in all cases it is true, increased expenditures have run parallel with growth, enterprise and prosperity. Which of our grants in aid of education will we cut off or decrease? Is it proposed to lessen the yearly vote in aid of poor schools, or that in aid of public schools or of high schools? In what direction are we to cut down the grants we give to agricultural societies or associations? Our critics do not answer. They are content to deal in vague and general statements.

#### Some Over-expenditures.

We over-expended, as hon. gentlemen will notice, last year under the head of agriculture nearly \$4,000. The Minister in charge of that department will not find it difficult to explain and justify