

by undertaking work which otherwise would fall on them. Municipal relief and not increasing our cash in hand has been our constant policy. We secured additional revenue for all time to come by passing the succession duties act in 1892. I have already shown that this act has been received with almost universal approval, and that it has year by year yielded a rich return. In our attempts to increase our revenues this session we hope to be able to do so with the minimum of irritation and the maximum of good results.

If this House continues to demand increased votes for education, for agriculture of other services, if the large measure of relief we have heretofore given to the municipalities is to continue to grow in the future as it has grown in the past, then, sir, even aside from the question of a probably lessened revenue from our woods and forests growing out of the restrictions we have placed on the manufacture of our logs, it would still be wise and prudent to anticipate any possible lack of equilibrium which might arise hereafter between our receipts and expenditures by making safe and immediate provision for additional revenue. We hope, Mr. Speaker, to make suitable provision during the session, in a fair and equitable way, to meet any emergency which may possibly arise. (Loud cheers.)

Col. Matheson.

Col. Matheson, who was loudly applauded by the Opposition, congratulated the Provincial Treasurer because he had finally admitted that there was a deficit. He had hoped, however, that he would have gone further, and given,

as they do in British budget speeches, at Ottawa and in every other Legislature, some hint, some account of the measures which will be taken to increase the revenue and give some idea of the amount which he proposes to raise. So far as he had been able to understand, they were to have an increase, an extension of the succession duties. That was plainly told to them in the speech. It was also reported outside the House, with what authority he knew not, that the Ontario Government was going to follow the example of Quebec and tax certain corporations—banks, insurance companies and others, but not their friends, the trust companies. That was, so far as he could learn, the intention of the Government, and he again congratulated the hon. gentlemen that they had at last come to feel the necessity of making some attempt to make things meet. (Opposition applause.) He also congratulated the Provincial Treasurer upon a matter to which he referred last year for the first time—that of publishing in the public accounts a statement of the amount owing by the Province for annuities and railway certificates. It was something the Opposition pointed out the public were entitled to. He was not satisfied with the statement published last year, and, he thought, reasonably so. The present public accounts justified him, he felt, in not being satisfied with it, for the present value of these annuities and railway certificates was discounted at 41-4 per

cent. The payment was a fixed one, and therefore the Provincial Treasurer published to the world that Ontario's credit was so low that it was possible to redeem the securities at a discount of 41-4 per cent. Why, the little Province of New Brunswick, that they affected to despise, put their 3 per cent. bonds on the Montreal market and sold them at 98, almost at par, while the Treasurer of the great Province of Ontario had to pay 31-4 per cent. This was not for want of good credit, but owing to bad financing with which those certificates were issued. He congratulated Mr. Harcourt because he had corrected matters to a certain extent this year by discounting them at 31-2 per cent. Last year he told them that the annuities and railway certificates were worth \$3,267,000 if redeemed to-day. To-day he told them that the same certificates almost to a dollar were worth \$3,156,000 in round numbers, and he congratulated the hon. gentleman that even at this late date he has tried to mend his ways. (Opposition applause.) He congratulated the hon. gentleman also because the public accounts contained more detail than last year. They had asked for this year after year, and he was glad to see there were 30 or 40 more pages in the public accounts this year than last. He asked that they should go further and publish the names of all the guards and other employees in the public institutions or elsewhere, and the amounts paid to them. They had a lump sum of \$11,000 in the accounts for guards. He desired full information, in order to show whether certain persons were drawing money from the Government treasury and doing nothing between elections. He cited the case of John W. Thompson of South Ontario, who was before the Public Accounts Committee a year ago. He was credited with being the active election agent of the Minister of Agriculture and was put down as a sub-examiner in the Department of Education.

Mr. Ross—Merely a clerk, and not a sub-examiner.

Col. Matheson—He was down on the books as a sub-examiner.

Mr. Ross—That is incorrect.

Continuing, Mr. Matheson contended that the work done by Mr. Thompson was worth about \$25, but he had been credibly informed that the gentleman referred to was an agent for the hon. Minister of Agriculture, looking after the lists, that he was working for him in the bye-elections when he should have been in Toronto, and he was paid \$142 by the Province for doing work worth \$25. This was the way the expenditure grew. It was an example of the way it grew in the Hon. Minister of Education's Department.

Hon. Geo. W. Ross inquired whether Mr. Matheson wished to convey the impression that Mr. Thompson was paid by his department for the time he was working for Mr. Dryden.

Mr. Matheson replied that he certainly did not.

A Misleading Item.

Taking up the Treasurer's estimate of revenue for 1899, Mr. Matheson said that the item of \$272,414 48 for interest on capital held and debts due by the Dominion to Ontario was misleading, as