

gentlemen that as far as possible our record for the next twenty or thirty years, more or less, will be on precisely the same lines. (Ministerial cheers.) We cannot improve upon them. The work has been most excellent.

Cause for Confidence.

We are starting the closing year of the century with a record that makes us feel that we are entitled to more, indeed, of the confidence of the country than perhaps we had received owing to the representations, or misrepresentations, made with regard to us by some hon. gentlemen in this House and out of it. I assure hon. gentlemen that I do not believe the supplementary estimates will be very large, although I am not able to say now positively whether they will be or not. The expectation is they will not be very large, and I hope that when the financial policy of the Province is discussed, and when our public accounts are examined from cover to cover, as I trust they will be, it will be found that the Government in its financial transactions has endeavored honestly and frankly to disclose to the country its true financial position, and to discharge its trust in the management of the three or four million dollars that come to its hands as becomes an honest and faithful trustee. (Loud Ministerial cheers.)

Mr. Matheson Replies.

Mr. Matheson rose at 5.35 and spoke until the House adjourned, commencing his reply to the Premier. He contended that sums amounting to \$447,000 were included in last year's receipts which really belonged to capital account, and that instead of there being a surplus of some \$400,000 there was a deficit of \$62,000. He claimed that the Province was going behind by about \$400,000 per year, inasmuch as they had to raise that much by direct taxation. He declared that the last timber sale was one which ought to be denounced from one end of the country to the other. It was conducted by a Minister of the Crown who was guilty of an act in North Waterloo which, if done in England, would have driven him from public life. It was conducted without proper facilities for buyers to see the limits, and on short notice, and he believed the Province had thereby lost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mr. Matheson prophesied that unless the Government imposed some more direct taxes, as last year, the Premier's prospective surplus for the year would not be realized in any measure.

Mr. Harcourt rose at this point and pointed out an omission of \$220,000 in the estimated receipts of the year, as first presented, which made Mr. Matheson's calculation admit a surplus of \$75,000.

Surplus Denied.

Continuing, Mr. Matheson declared the report of the Financial Commission would be valueless, as had been the reports of commissions in the past, which had been acted upon, notably the one on school books, recommending a reduction in price. He denied there was any surplus of two million dollars. We had some trust funds at Ottawa, but they were not available to pay any of the Province's debts. We had no

surplus at all, but beyond all assets we were in debt to some \$4,300,000. At this point Mr. Matheson moved the adjournment of the debate and the House adjourned at 5.55.

Estimated Receipts.

The following is a statement of the estimated receipts for the year 1900, referred to in Mr. Ross' summary:—

Subsidy, \$1,196,872.80; interest on capital held and debts due by the Dominion to Ontario, \$272,214.48; interest on investments, \$30,000.

Crown Lands Department—Crown lands, \$185,000; clergy lands, \$3,000; common school lands, \$10,000; grammar school lands, \$2,000; woods and forests, \$1,300,000; total, \$1,500,000.

Public institutions:—Toronto Lunatic Asylum, \$40,000; London Lunatic Asylum, \$13,000; Kingston Lunatic Asylum, \$4,000; Hamilton Lunatic Asylum, \$12,000; Mimico Lunatic Asylum, \$4,000; Brockville Lunatic Asylum, \$3,800; Orillia Lunatic Asylum, \$3,500; Reformatory for Females, \$1,700; Reformatory for Boys, \$700; Central Prison, \$20,000; total, \$102,700.

Education Department .....	\$ 50,000
Casual revenue .....	150,000
Succession duties .....	175,000
Tavern and brewers' licenses.	375,000
Law stamps .....	60,000
Algoma taxes .....	4,500
Fisheries .....	35,000
Assessments, drainage works	5,000
Insurance companies .....	3,000
Removal of patients .....	4,000

Total estimated receipts. \$3,963,487 28

Cash balances 31st December, 1899 .....

From revenue bill .....

Dined at Government House.

The following gentlemen had the honor of being invited to dine at Government House last evening:—Lieut.-Col. J. Vance Graveley, the Rev. Arthur W. Baldwin, the Rev. Richard P. Bowles, Surgeon-Major W. Napier Reefer, Mr. William J. Allen, M.P.P.,