

## The Disputed Funds.

Mr. Matheson had endeavored to figure out a deficit for last year. There was no Government his hon. friend could mention but dealt with its current revenue in the same way as the Province of Ontario did. Mr. Matheson had withdrawn from his statement of receipts what every Government considered was current revenue. Mr. Matheson had also said the Province had a debt of four million dollars. But he wanted to charge as presently payable and due the railway annuities of three million dollars. If he did that he must capitalize the 5 per cent. money held by the Dominion. If that were done we had a surplus of six million dollars. (Ministerial applause.)

Continuing, Mr. Stratton said Ontario paid much less in supplementary revenue than New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and many other States. Would his hon. friend take the responsibility of voting against receiving money from railways? Mr. Matheson had said the financial commission deserved the reprobation of all honest men.

Mr. Matheson—I did not use that word.

Mr. Stratton—Yes, that is the word. I think if he will turn up *The Mail* he will find that his organ has given him credit for all that he has said. The report of the commission, Mr. Stratton said, deserved the approval of all fair-minded people.

That was not all. The assets to which he referred were only the Treasury assets. In addition there were the Parliament buildings and the public buildings erected at great cost all over Ontario.

## Again Corrected.

He desired to correct another misstatement by Mr. Matheson. The latter had said that the Government received \$30,000,000 from Crown lands, whereas the expenditure on public institutions showed only half that amount. Therefore, said Mr. Matheson, the Government had nothing to show for the remaining \$15,000,000 but a debt of \$4,000,000. Was that a fair statement, Mr. Stratton asked, to go to the country?

Mr. Matheson denied that he had made the statement attributed to him.

Mr. Stratton—This is a statement clipped from the hon. gentleman's speech as reported in *The Mail*—that's all I know about it. Of course I will give the hon. gentleman credit for all he takes back. (Ministerial cheers.) Why did the hon. gentlemen not show that we have given \$6,000,000 more for education, and that the increased expenditures of the Province have been caused not by extravagance but by the policy of the Legislature in using the funds of Ontario to lessen the burdens of the people and to increase the grants to the people. (Ministerial applause.) No doubt the expenditure was heavy, but he did not apologize for that; he would, however, apologize if there was not so large an expenditure in the interest of the people. In three years Toronto, by means of direct taxation, had expended over \$1,000,000 more than the Province. Surely Ontario, with its vast resources, could expend as

much as Toronto, with its direct taxation? But supposing the Province had raised the \$350,000, consisting of revenue duties and succession duties, by direct taxation instead of the present method, it would mean \$800,000,000 of assessment in Ontario, a payment of 4-10 of one mill on the dollar. It would also mean that the man who was assessed for \$500 would pay 20 cents and the man assessed for \$1,000 would pay 40 cents. Surely that would not be a large contribution to the Provincial exchequer. (Ministerial applause.)

Mr. Stratton then censured the Opposition for decrying the credit and resources of the Province.

Mr. Matheson protested that he had never decried the credit of the Province. He had, however, decried the financial administration of Ontario.

Mr. Stratton retorted that he could construe Mr. Matheson's action in no other way when he declared that the Province did not have a surplus, and its assets were not what they were made out to be. Mr. Carscallen, moreover, had said that he would not advise any friend to settle in northern Ontario. What was that but decrying our agricultural resources? (Ministerial applause.)

## Ontario's Record.

After comparing the financial record of Ontario with that of Quebec and other Provinces, to the great advantage of the former, Mr. Stratton replied to Mr. Matheson's criticisms regarding

the timber resources of Ontario, and the last timber sale in this Province, and his statement that a reformatory was not needed in Oxford. The reason for the removal of the reformatory was because the land at Penetanguishene was not suitable to agriculture, whereas in Oxford, one of the finest counties in the Province, the facilities were unsurpassed for training the lads in agricultural pursuits. In this connection he pointed out that the demands upon the Government for humanitarian purposes were increasing. They had been asked to aid municipal sanatoria, and to establish a home for inebriates, and personally if anything could be done in this direction he would be much pleased. The Government had appropriated altogether about \$15,000 for the Patriotic Fund and other purposes, and if there were need to do more, the Government would act in the best interests of the people. He dilated upon the immense resources of the Province and the steps which the Government were taking to develop them. He called upon the Opposition to drop the discussion of petty issues and co-operate in this grand work of development. (Loud Ministerial applause.)

## Mr. Marter's Criticisms.

Mr. Marter declared the Provincial revenue ample for all the requirements of Ontario if it were only economically administered. If economy were practised the Government could make as large grants to public institutions as had been made in the past, and still keep out of debt. The purchases of supplies for public institutions were made in the interest of favorites of the Government. The revenue bill of last year had been rendered necessary by