

vince. Our assets in 1899 were \$7,368,917. On December 31 last they were \$7,535,400, or an improvement of \$197,350. (Ministerial applause.) Our bank account at the close of the year was \$1,033,546, compared with \$836,195. He thought hon. gentlemen would admit that was a really bona fide asset. (Ministerial cheers.) It was very gratifying that they should meet the House after so many years of public confidence and show cash assets of over a million dollars. The liabilities had been increased in one direction during the year, in the matter of railway annuities, by \$82,193, arising out of the certificates issued for forty miles of the Rainy River Railway, and for the construction of a bridge at Cornwall. A year ago the Province's liabilities were \$5,117,985, now they were \$4,954,929. The increase in the surplus during the year was \$329,539. (Ministerial cheers.) The Province therefore started the new century with an actual surplus of \$2,580,471.49, and with a comfortable bank account of \$1,000,000 in cash, speaking in round figures, and \$1,500,000 in good securities. Therefore, if they had to face a small reduction in revenue this year, as he feared they might, they had a bank account to draw upon until some other source of revenue was obtained. He thought they were on the way, however, to obtaining a greater income from the development of the new country. They had been accustomed in the past to receive a little more than

\$1,000,000 from the Crown lands. This year they were not likely to receive so much, and this was the only respect in which a falling off was anticipated. They hoped to make this good in part through increases in supplementary revenues, succession duties, the mining enterprises, and, perhaps, through the woods and forests department. Notwithstanding these, there would probably be a small deficiency, which would not, however, amount to much, and they were not without expectation that it would not occur at all. (Applause.)

#### Finances Since Confederation.

Continuing, he gave statistics of the revenue of the Province since 1867 and the amount expended. The aggregate receipts since Confederation were \$108,808,724.14, the expenditure \$107,775,177.83, leaving a balance of \$1,033,548.31. He called the attention of hon. gentlemen opposite to the fact that in the handling of these immense amounts the loss to the treasury by defalcation or any other irregularity was so trifling as to be barely worth noticing. This was a fact which, he contended, reflected great credit on the service concerned, and the Administration that employed that service. (Government applause.) The Premier recapitulated the chief items of expenditures since 1867, which were as follows:—Transportation, \$13,538,919.41; railway subsidies, \$9,204,490.07; actual cash paid to railways, \$7,000,841.76; colonization roads, \$3,353,609.06; bridges, piers, etc., \$68,256.24; locks, dams and slides, \$913,563.94. The Premier referred at length to some of these expenditures and the

results attained. Of the railways he said the Government had aided 2,126 miles, which, at a valuation of \$20,000 per mile, were now worth \$42,000,000. He dwelt upon the opening up of new sections which had resulted, and the stimulus to all industries. He was not prepared to discuss the wisdom or unwisdom of railway subsidies. They were given by the Dominion Government, the United States Government, and in the old land subsidies had been given to steamship and cable companies. Results had been achieved which could not have been attained in any other way.

#### Settlement of the North.

The effect of the Government's expenditure on colonization roads was to secure the construction of 5,362 miles of highways throughout new Ontario for the convenience of the settlers. As a result the population of northern Ontario had increased from 15,728 in 1871 to 91,694 in 1891, and would probably reach 120,000 by the census of the present year. They had settled in northern Ontario since 1871, 30,999 persons and located 4,145,043 acres of land and sold 124,358 acres, an area equal to eight counties of average size in older Ontario.

Mr. Ross then touched on the Government's record in dealing with the public institutions of the Province. In 1871 there were 1,054 patients; in 1899 there were 5,088. Since 1872 we had admitted to our asylums 18,662 persons. The cost on capital account had been \$4,303,056, and on maintenance \$17,881,619. This was paid out of the revenues of the Province and without charge to the municipalities or direct taxation, which had to be resorted to in many other countries. The cost per patient was \$122.19, compared with \$165 in the State of New York.

Turning to the Government's policy on education, Mr. Ross said the large expenditure was endured because it was the spirit of the people to insist that the Government so far as possible within its means should see that every child gets at least an elementary education. The population of Ontario must be intelligent, otherwise we shall decline. That we must hold the key politically and commercially in the Dominion of Canada should be the ambition of every son of Ontario. (Cheers.) The Government and the various municipalities had spent since 1867 \$81,802,294 on public, high and separate schools, and he thought the House would cordially approve of the increased expenditure this year to maintain our supremacy.

#### Educational Progress.

No country could have great men, in a general sense, unless it had institutions capable of producing them. He spoke of the steps Ontario had taken in the matter of education from its common schools to its universities, referring particularly to the institution for the deaf, mute and blind, the School of Practical Science and the School of Domestic Science. He referred to the grant of \$10,000 for technical schools, the grant of \$19,200 to the School of Mining at Kingston, and to the projected enlargement of the Agricultural College. The Premier