

ing, as Mr. Ross had said, sold 5,152 square miles of timber land, they had sold 10,238 square miles, so that the price, instead of being \$1,324, was only \$725 per square mile. The price per square mile at the sale in 1892 was nearly twice as high as last year, which showed they were not sold to the best advantage, or the timber now for sale was vastly inferior, and only a remnant of that vast pine forest which 30 years ago covered the country from the Ottawa to the Rainy River. (Opposition applause.) Mr. Beatty commended the Doyle system of measurement, which, he said, had been unanimously adopted by the lumbermen of the Province in 1879. The use of the Scribner system meant a great loss to the Provincial revenue. The timber limits sold since 1898 revert to the Crown in ten years. The result was the lumbermen cut every log in sight. In his opinion the only way to reforest this country was to prohibit the lumbermen cutting the small trees, a course recommended by a special commission several years ago. Mr. Beatty concluded by expressing the view that the adoption of the Doyle log measurement system would be a great advantage both to the lumbermen and the country.

The Nightmare of the Opposition.

Mr. Pettypiece (East Lambton) first referred to the financial side of the discussion, remarking that the surplus was the pride of the Province, but the nightmare of the hon. gentlemen opposite. He quoted the Year Book issued by the Dominion Statistician at Ottawa, which showed that Ontario was the only Province in the Dominion which had not a debt, while the surplus, based on the report of the Finance Commission, was given as \$2,580,471 on December 31, 1900. While there were liabilities of \$3,500,000 there were assets amounting to \$2,500,000, bearing interest at a higher rate, which would pay the interest on the annuities and wipe out the demands as they fell due within the next 40 years. Mr. Pettypiece quoted the figures of expenditure in ten years, showing that it was \$4,158,000 in 1891, or \$120,000 more than last year.

Col. Matheson—There was an expenditure of \$600,000 on the new Parliament buildings that year.

Mr. Pettypiece—The hon. gentlemen are always ready to count capital expenditure when they are contending the expenditure is increasing. (Hear, hear.) The ordinary expenditure for the past ten years, he continued, had increased but slightly, notwithstanding the steady development and expansion of the Province. On the other side of the ledger the revenue had increased steadily. The revenue from Crown lands had increased by 56 per cent. There was not a cent of direct taxation on the people of Ontario. No tax collector knocked at the door and asked for a cent for the Treasurer of Ontario.

Col. Matheson—What about the succession duties?

Mr. Pettypiece—My hon. friends, like myself, would be glad were they called upon this year to pay \$10,000 or \$12,000 in succession duties. (Laughter). The speaker referred to the proposed construction of the Government railway to Temiskaming, without the expenditure of a dollar in cash, as evidence of the wisdom and good management of the Government. It was a step in the right direction, but he would like, as he had said a year ago, to see the Government own the line from Toronto to North Bay as well.

A Match for Wily Sam.

The prompt action in compelling the manufacture of lumber in this country offset the effect of the Dingley act, and was one case in a thousand where Uncle Sam met his match. (Ministerial applause.) The action of the Premier in calling the attention of the British authorities to Canada as a source of supply for horses had resulted in prices being paid here for horses which had not been equalled since the American war. He referred to the charges of corruption, and declared that notwithstanding the statements of the Opposition there was not a seat changed by the switching of ballots, of which they had heard so much. The bye-elections, which were an indication of the feeling of the people with regard to the existing Government, had been most favorable to the Ontario Ministry during the last two or three years. The people were with them stronger in sentiment and hope than four years ago. The revenues and expenditures were carefully managed, and the country governed at a cost of 11 cents on the dollar. When the budget debate was over, and the ante-election speeches made, he ventured to say there would be nothing more heard of the financial position of the Province. Nobody seriously charged that the Government had been extravagant. Their finances were in such a position that when the day came for making rapid progress they stood in a better position than any other Province in the Dominion for going ahead. When election day came the people would return the Government which had so ably and wisely managed their affairs. (Loud Ministerial applause.)

Mr. Duff's Surprise.

Mr. Duff (West Simcoe) was surprised that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Pettypiece) had not made any reference to the criticisms which he had passed in the columns of his newspaper upon Hon. Mr. Dryden for his investment in the North Dakota ranch. (Opposition applause.) If the hon. gentleman did not now believe what he had said then, why was he not manly enough to take it back? If he still believed it, why should he fear to refer to it? (Renewed Opposition applause.) Continuing, he said

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