

# ONTARIO PUBLIC DEBT INCREASED FOURFOLD

## Sharp Rise Since Tories Got Hold of Purse-strings

**Direct Liability of Province Has  
Jumped From Eleven Millions in  
1904 to Forty-nine Millions of Dol-  
lars To-day.**

The public debt of Ontario since the Conservative party got hold of the purse strings in 1904 has increased fourfold. In 1904 the direct liability of the Province was \$11,709,651. To-day the public debt is \$49,389,366. There has been a corresponding increase in the annual interest charges, which now amount to \$1,500,000. This is an increase of over \$1,000,000 since the present Government came into power.

Statements tabled in the Legislature yesterday showed that the debt has increased during the past year by about \$9,000,000. Liberal members commented on this fact yesterday afternoon. "The public debt is still soaring," remarked Mr. Rowell with a smile, when asked by a group of newspapermen what he thought of the Budget.

The total expenditure in the year 1904 was \$5,267,000, while the total expenditure for the year just ended was approximately \$18,000,000. Even taking out of that the capital expenditure of \$2,380,000 on account of the Hydro-electric system, and \$236,000 on account of the Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway, the expenditure still exceeds \$15,000,000.

### **An Enormous Increase.**

The Provincial Treasurer announced a reduction in expenditure, but his statement shows an enormous increase as compared with the days of the Liberal Government. The argument is advanced that the fact that the present Government is able to borrow so well is due to good government before the Conservatives came into power.

The statement of revenue shows that both by means of taxation of corporations and succession duties the Conservatives are "getting more out of the people."

### **Cost of Government House.**

Another feature of great interest at the present time is that the public accounts brought down yesterday, added to the amount already reported in the previous public accounts, show that the total expenditure to date on the new Government House exceeds one million dollars. The sum of \$100,000 was voted in the estimates for the current year at the last session of the Legislature, and the supplementary estimates show \$72,000 more.

Generous expenditures are also shown in connection with the Guelph Prison Farm, which total over \$1,700,000, counting proposed expenditure in the present year and expenditure already reported. This includes the cost of the building, equipment, plant, and items in the capital expenditure column.

The supplementary estimates for the year ending October 31, 1916, tabled yesterday, involve an expenditure of \$1,193,299.