

to be diminished. We rather rejoice to know that we have been able to do so much to further a well-known, tried and proved means of benefiting mankind. At the same time we do not forget that we should always strive to mould our charitable work into as exact and intelligent and valuable a form as possible. No one in this House, no thoughtful, influential man outside of it, no newspaper in this Province, had either questioned these expenditures or called for their curtailment. As to this one subject, at any rate, party lines had been well-nigh completely effaced. To such proportions had these grants grown that to support the institutions referred to required a yearly expenditure of nearly \$900,000, a sum much in excess of our grants to civil government, legislation and administration of justice all combined. We were actually expending \$9 out of every \$11 of our Dominion subsidy for this one purpose. In fact, during 1891 we spent for public institutions, maintenance, hospitals and charities and County Houses of Refuge, \$988,000, or nearly \$10 out of every \$11 of our Dominion subsidy. And we were doing this at a time when our revenue was in a sense stationary, circumscribed and inelastic, and the growth of the Province in a dozen different directions called here and there for increased expenditures. We had always been careful to economize whenever and wherever possible. There had never been either sign of waste or indication of extravagance. The subsidy we receive from the Dominion Government has remained at the same figure since Confederation. The founders of Confederation, in fixing the amount, considered our population at the time, our requirements in the matter of local expenditures, as well as the revenues which the Dominion at that date would receive. The same considerations, if we were to urge them, would entitle us to a largely increased subsidy now. The population of Ontario has increased 718,230 since Confederation, and this involves a greatly increased and unavoidable local expenditure. During the same time the Dominion revenues have trebled and we get no share of the increase.

REVENUE PROBLEMS.

Ordinarily speaking, the revenues of a country do not grow in proportion to its population. We had therefore this problem to solve. We were expected to make from time to time new grants and to increase existing grants on a circumscribed and stationary revenue. There was no middle course, and we felt, therefore, fully justified in resorting to succession duties as a new and fair source of revenue. The whole subject of succession duties had received but little, I may say no attention, in this Province. It was, however, well understood in England, and in some of the most important and advanced of the United States and elsewhere. The abstract fairness of such duties had never been questioned. What is called "collateral succession," or the succession to property by indirect or remote heirs, had always been regarded as a fair subject for taxation. Indeed, learned jurists, able

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