STORES CLOSE DAILY AT 6.

PICKING up bargains—yes, that much abused and overworked word—but in this case it is used straight to the letter. Look at this list of broken lots and the odds and ends of winter goods, sprinkled with early spring pickings:

Men's Medium Weight Dark Colored Suits, some of all sizes in the lot, regular 10.00 and 12.00, for.....**6.25**

Men's Blue Beaver Overcoats, Italian lined, velvet collar, sizes 34 to 44, regular 10.00, for.....**7.50**

Boys' 3-Piece Suits, in dark tweeds, neat patterns, sizes 27 to 33, double-breasted style, regular 3.50, for..**2.75**

Boys' Blue Beaver Reefers, with storm collar, tweed lined, sizes 22 to 27, regular 3.50, Saturday.....**2.50**

Men's Waterproof Coats, cape or Chesterfield style, sizes 36 to 44 chest, regular 6.00, Saturday.....**4.00**

Oak Hall Clothiers,

115 King St. East and 116 Yonge St., Toronto.

HAMILTON NEWS

ALL-NIGHT CARS TO BE RUN

Street Railway Company Requested Permission and it Was Quickly Granted.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The Premier, Sir Charles Tupper and the 19th Battalion to Be Invited —General News.

Hamilton, March 8.—(Special.)—The Finance Committee at its meeting this evening received an application from the Street Railway Company for permission to run night cars at least once an hour. Without discussion the request was granted, and the City Solicitor was instructed to prepare the necessary bylaw.

Aldermen's Hearts Softened.

The aldermen's hearts softened to the appeal of the directors of the Normal College of Domestic Science and Art to the extent of granting $1000 to the institution, on the understanding that it was not to be regarded as a precedent.

Hamilton Has Done Her Share.

The Lieutenant-Governor's appeal for subscriptions to the Canadian Patriotic Fund was not enthused over, the committee being of the opinion that Hamilton had done its share in that way.

Harold C. Thompson of the Strathcona Horse was granted the usual $50, making the city donation to South African volunteers amount to $2010.

Queen's Birthday Celebration.

Mayor Teetzel brought up the matter of a celebration on Queen's Birthday in connection with the opening of Dundurn Park. He thought Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Charles Tupper should be invited. It was also proposed to invite the 19th Battalion of St. Catharines to participate. Chairman Wright of the Parks Commission also addressed the committee. It was decided to form the whole committee a special committee to co-operate with the commissioners in the matter.

The request of the Board of Education that debentures to the amount of $39,000 be issued by the city was laid over.

The Sewers Committee.

At a meeting of the Sewers Committee this afternoon the aldermen discussed the proposal that sewers, to cost about $65,000, be advertised for under the local improvement plan.

Ald. TenEyck and Reid questioned the wisdom of advertising for so large a number of sewers, when the price of pipe was so yet uncertain.

Ald. Neilligan assured the committee that the price would not be raised until the end of the year.

Mayor Teetzel wanted an agreement to that effect from the Hamilton and Toronto Sewer Pipe Company, the present contractors.

Mr. New, president of the company, was asked respecting the matter, and he stated the company was willing to enter into a contract that the price would not be raised this year.

The list of sewers to be advertised was accordingly approved of.

They Missed the Flagpole.

The Ladysmith celebration revealed the fact that there is no flagstaff on the Public Library building, and at the monthly meeting of the board this afternoon it was decided to refer the proposal to put up a flagpole to the Building Committee.

Concert a Big Success.

A concert and recital was given in Association Hall this evening under the auspices of Hamilton Lodge, C.O.O.F. Those who took part were: Miss Jessie Alexander, Mrs. W. Palmer, H. M. Bennett, humorist, Toronto, and George Allan. The concert was largely attended, and was a big success.

Meeting of Bank Depositors.

A meeting of depositors of the defunct Stinson's Bank (private) was held in the Board of Trade this evening. About 150 were present, and George A. Smith presided. A subscription was taken up to defray the expenses of getting information concerning Mr. Stinson's financial condition. A resolution was carried requesting Col. Moore, who was manager of the bank up to one month before it suspended payment, to attend the next meeting, which will be held in about two weeks. Several of the depositors urged that criminal action be taken.

Board of School Trustees.

The Board of School Trustees decided tonight to pay $25 to the Ontario School of Domestic Science to instruct 50 girl pupils in domestic science till June. Miss Jessie Wood was given the vacancy caused by the death of Mrs. McKeren. The report of inspector Seath was presented. He advised that another teacher be added to the staff of the Collegiate Institute.

They Don't Want the Flag.

A deputation of Irishmen, headed by William Kavanaugh, J. Orr, Callaghan, Adam Ballentine and John Alexander, waited on Mayor Teetzel this morning, and after thanking him for proposing that the Irish flag should be run up over the City Hall on March 17 asked him to withdraw the proposition. The Irishmen of the city, the Mayor was assured, did not desire to flaunt the green flag; and they would be well pleased to see the Ladysmith flag floating over the City Hall on St. Patrick's Day.

Mayor Teetzel, in reply, told the deputation that he had no idea the suggestion would raise any feeling, and he would accede to the request.

Child Badly Burned.

Late last night, Josephine D. Bennett, the 12-year-old daughter of Patrick Bennett, 559 North James-street, met with a painful accident. The little girl was carrying a lamp from the basement to the kitchen, when it exploded and set fire to her clothing. She was badly burned about the body and face, and suffered terrible agony until Dr. Balfe arrived and relieved her sufferings. In trying to save his sister, William Bennett had his hands and arms badly burned.

Police Points.

Frank Smith, a Beverley man, was charged before Judge Snider to-day with stealing tools from Benjamin Purcell of Lynden, last Tuesday. The magistrate fined Andrew Heagle $5 for assaulting his wife, Elvira.

Minor Matters.

The box office receipts and scenery of the "Little Nell and Marchioness" company were attached at the Grand last evening, until a bill of $180 owing the Hotel Royal management was paid.

George T. and Mrs. Tuckett were among the passengers on the Empress of India, which arrived at Vancouver, B.C., yesterday from Japan. Mr. Tuckett was met by E. B. Witton, who told him of the sudden death of his father. Mr. and Mrs. Tuckett will return to Hamilton at once.

Mrs. Julia Zimmerman, North Hughson-street, wants $200 damages from the city for an injured ankle.

"D" COMPANY GRUBBED.

A Great Feast and a Royal Evening for This Jolly Company of the Grenadiers.

The members of "D" Company, Royal Grenadiers, mustered full strength Wednesday night and made a combined attack upon a long row of tables laden with good things in the Temple Cafe. The manoeuvre was successfully executed, and in an astonishingly short time the spoils, which consisted of all the delicacies of the season, were safely stowed away.

It was the annual company dinner and mirth and good fellowship were its distinguishing features, and splendid songs and witty speeches combined to make the affair the most pleasing and enjoyable ever held by the company. The chair was occupied by Sergt. Mortimer, who made a very efficient presiding officer. Speeches were given by Capt. Stinson, Lieut. Carlton, Capt. McKay, Lieut. Montgomery, Sergt. Robertson, Color-Sergt. Scully, Brigade Bugler Hume and others.

All made touching references to three of their comrades now in South Africa—Capt. Mason, Lieut. Wilkie and Sergt. Freemantle. The announcement that the first mentioned, who had been wounded, would in all probability be declared lieutenant within a week, was greeted with cheers.

Among those who contributed to the musical part of the program were: Sergt. Scully, Sergt. Brimley and Messrs. Lucknoe, Hessin and Adams. The latter made quite a hit with an original song, entitled "My Father Was a Soldier."

Letters of regret were read from Lieut.-Col. Bruce, Major Tassie, Capt. Gooderham, Surgeon-Major King and Sergt.-Major Cox.

To get a nice tea biscuit use Silver Cream Baking Powder and you will have a biscuit that will please you.

Who is Col. Stuart Wetherley.

Lima, March 8.—Col. Stuart Wetherley of Canada has arrived here from a long tour of exploration. Leaving Quito, he went down the Napo River in a canoe to the Amazon. He returned to Iquitos and then proceeded by a steamboat along the River Pichito to Bernudese, and next, on horseback, journeyed to Oroya. From that place he took a train for Lima.

Col. Wetherley said he was surprised at the natural wealth of Peru. He visited the Geographical Society yesterday. Important modern maps were presented to him.

Fish Season.

Now, during Lent, you are all looking for delicacies in fish. Telephone Gallagher & Co., the old-established fish and fruit dealers, 107 East King-street. Fresh fish every day. All kinds of shell fish, as well as smelts, chicken, halibut trout, shad, sea salmon, shell clams, oysters, Malpeques, blue points, Rockaways, etc. The only place in town. Telephone 412 early for fresh fruits and vegetables. Goods delivered to any city address.

HENRY A. TAYLOR,
DRAPER.

Specially exclusive lines of fine imported trouserings and special values during alteration of premises.

THE ROSSIN BLOCK.

NOTICE

Not New.

Don't think our Vapo-Cresolene is something new, for it isn't. For twenty years it has been extensively used for all forms of bronchial and lung trouble. Mrs. Ballington Booth said of it, years ago, that "No family where there are young children should be without Vapo-Cresolene." You breathe-in the vapor, it goes all through the bronchial tubes and lungs, soothing, healing curing. It's pleasant, safe, economical.

Vapo-Cresolene is sold by druggists everywhere. The Vaporizer and Lamp, which should last a lifetime, and a bottle of Vapo-Cresolene complete, $1.50; extra supplies of Vapo-Cresolene 25 cents, 50 cents. Illustrated booklet containing physicians' testimonials free upon request. VAPO-CRESOLENE Co., 180 Wall St., New York, U.S.A.

PREMIER ROSS BRINGS DOWN HIS OWN BUDGET

His Chief Argument Was to Represent That the Government Had a Larger Surplus Than Commission Claims.

There Was a Considerable Increase in Expenditure, But He Thought the Province Could Stand It—Mr. Matheson Begins His Reply.

It would be impossible to imagine a duller and jerkier effort than the couple of hours of mumbling, disconnected talk of yesterday afternoon, which Premier Ross called his budget speech. His voice was so poor that it was hard to catch his figures, and when followed by the aid of an abstract supplied to the House there was little in them.

The principal point he made was to represent a larger surplus that the report of the Financial Commission shows. The experts made the surplus $1,957,873. Mr. Ross figured it out at $2,250,932.

His Estimates Increased.

The new Premier began in an almost inaudible tone, but he was understood to be speaking in complimentary terms of his predecessor in office. After a while he managed to speak up. But at no time could he be heard with perfect satisfaction. He said the statement of estimates about to be presented to the House by him proposed a considerable increase in expenditure. But he had confidence in the country to meet it. The country had begun an era of prosperity, and there was now an expectation abroad of a more stimulating character than the public had enjoyed for a number of years.

Talked of Canadian Prosperity.

He begged the attention of the House while he referred to some Dominion matters. A large number of working men were now employed all over the country, and there were fewer unemployed in Ontario than in former years. He gave a lot of Dominion figures showing the increases since 1885 in the exports of butter and cheese. He also quoted bank statistics, insurance statements, deposit accounts in savings and chartered banks, railway receipts and business failures, and so forth.

A Great Year for Companies.

Another gratifying proof of the growing prosperity was obtained from the records of the Provincial Secretary's office. In 1898 244 charters of incorporation of joint stock companies were issued. Last year the number was 346. The issue of letters patent increased from 30 to 47. Extra provincial licenses were 16, as compared with 12 the preceding year. The totals were for 1898 275, and for 1899 399 incorporations. A better idea still could be derived from the figures showing the capital stock of these companies. The total amount which the year 1898 represented was $35,691,177, and 1899 $156,696,885. These figures showed the growing desire to invest money in the development of the agriculture, industries and resources of the province.

Half a Million More Revenue.

Mr. Ross turned his attention to the receipts of the Treasurer of the province for 1899, totalling $4,096,494, as compared with $3,651,353 received the previous year. This was an increase of approximately half a million in the revenue of the province.

Items of 1899 Receipts.

An abstract placed in the hands of the members gave the following details of revenue:

Subsidy	$1,116,812
Specific grant	80,000
Interest on capital held by Dominion and debts due to province	272,414
Interest on investments	28,208
Crown Lands Department	1,315,508
Algoma taxes	3,096
Law stamps	53,231
Licenses	373,863
Provincial Department	50,154
Sale of lands at Toronto Lunacy Asylum	9,266
Fisheries	30,940
Provincial tax	217,059
Succession duties	150,111
Public institutions	91,410
Casual revenue	257,578
Drainage works assessments	5,989
Drainage debentures	22,650
Tile	9,454

Liquor Trade Wheeled Up.

Premier Ross said he would mention only one or two cases of increase in these details of revenue. The first would be the receipts from licenses. Last year an additional tax had been imposed on taverns in cities, and also on brewers and distillers. From these sources there had been an increased revenue of $97,042. From 62 brewers the increase was $39,885, and from 8 distillers, $35,166, or a total in round numbers of $66,000, leaving the balance of the increase, or $31,000, to be accounted for by the additional tax imposed on the taverns. He continued:

Reduction of Licenses.

"These additional taxes have been borne without any inconvenience by the various parties. I wish also to draw attention to this fact that there were 88 licenses less last year than the year before, which was less than the any year since Confederation. In 1804 the number of licenses in Ontario was 3276, and last year 2976, or a falling off of 300 in the period of five years."

Under the operation of the License Act there had been a gradual reduction in the number of licenses, and along with this fact the legislation of last session had brought a substantial increase of revenue. Of course these increases applied only to provincial taxation. Taking a period of five years the province had received $1,036,375 from tavern licenses, and the municipalities $1,397,441, or an almost equal division.

Fewer Drunks in the Province.

"There is," he said, "one fact in connection with the number of licenses which is of considerable interest. It is the reduction in the number of commitments given by the Inspector of Prisons. Ten years ago the commitments totalled 4573, and last year they were only 1892."

Succession Duties a Disappointment

Continuing, he said there had been no increase in the succession duties last year, but rather a falling off. The estimate for the current year was for a slight increase, from papers already entered in the office of the Solicitor for the Government. Since the act was passed seven and a half years ago, the Government had received from this source the sum of $1,223,915, or an average of $174,800 per annum. This revenue was derived from 532 estates. During 1899, 3169 wills were proved and 1744 letters of administration were issued, a total of 4913, against 4471 the previous year.

Only a Few Estates Caught.

Of this number 4618 estates escaped the duty, so that one only in 50 came within the provisions of the act. In 11 cases out of 12 the collateral heirs were liable to pay the duty, and in only 8 instances were the direct heirs called on to pay. In 1898, four counties in Ontario contributed 74 per cent. of the total revenue from this source, viz., York County, including Toronto, $89,338; Lanark, $16,845; Essex, $15,022; Leeds, $13,141. Altho some opposition had been encountered when this tax was first applied, this, he thought, was now withdrawn.

Revenue Act of Last Year.

From the provincial revenue tax, which was so long debated on both sides of the House, there was received the sum of $217,059. When the tax was imposed the Government had contended that it was entirely reasonable that large corporations that had profited out of investments in the province should be made to contribute something to the treasury for the protection they received and for direct investments by the Government. Railways had been subsidized to the extent of about $8,000,000, and had contributed $72,944 to the Government. This, he thought, was a very small contribution from the railways.

Mr. Marter: "Does that include street railways?"

Mr. Ross: "No; they contributed $7083." The amount received from the revenue tax would enable the Government to undertake certain expenditure which would otherwise have been impossible. In the Provincial Secretary's Department there had been an increase of $35,110 received from the issue of letters of incorporation. The Government thought that the fees should be increased upon the large amount of capital under investment, and had so increased them. [Hear, hear.]

Big Increase in Expenditure.

Coming then to the expenditures of the Province, he said there was an increase of $92,560 in 1899 over 1898, the figures for 1899 being $1,710,420. In 1898, instead of paying railway certificates out of revenue, this was done by the sale of annuities, while in 1899 the railway certificates were paid out of the ordinary revenue. The amount expended in this way was $293,576, including drainage and tile debentures, railway aid and annuity certificates and stationery office. Had it not been for the increased revenue this sum could not have been paid in this way. For the Departments of Education there had been an increase in cost of administration of about $15,030 in each case. For public buildings an increase of about $14,000 had been incurred. These increases were such as he thought could not reasonably be complained. For the administration of justice, which was always a growing charge, there had also been an increase, but it was inevitable. Every new township opened up imposed a new charge on the Department of Justice. Lock-ups had to be built, police or stipendiary magistrates and constables had to be appointed to preserve the peace and guarantee the security of person and property in new districts. In the older portions of the country the increase was not so great.

Cost of Public Institutions.

The heaviest charges upon the revenue were to be found in two or three items, mainly the charge for public institutions. This charge amounted last year to over one million dollars. These items had furnished hon. gentlemen opposite for years with material for criticism, which he thought, on the whole, was not well founded, but which served to put the Government on its guard and ensure the greatest economy in management. It was very easy to say this or that amount should not be expended, but he knew that if the Government consulted the superintendents of these institutions the expenditure would be materially increased both for the promotion of the comfort of the inmates and perhaps of the officers as well. He thought it was one of the most gratifying features of the methods of government adopted at Confederation, that the province had assumed the care of the unfortunate classes of the population.

Care of the Poor and Afflicted.

Mr. Ross dealt with the affairs of hospitals and charities. He quoted figures to show that the total admissions to the public institutions from 1871 to 1896, a period of 26 years, were 42,665, and to the hospitals and charities 327,311, making a total of 369,976 persons who had received aid during the existence of Liberal government in the province. In the same period the number of institutions had increased from six to 12, and the daily average population from 1724 to 5106. The institutions receiving Government aid had increased from 26 to 121, and the total admissions from 3843 to 30,050. The cost of public institutions and charities in 1872 was $284,731, and in 1899 $1,002,602.

At Confederation the daily average population of the asylums was 1919 and in 1899 4917. The per capita cost had decreased from $140 to $127, but the revenue per patient had increased from $6.88 to $15.84. The Government believed that every patient able to maintain himself should do so, or at least pay part of his cost. He entered into rows of figures, showing the cost per capita in other institutions of Canada and the United States.

Touching the Reformatory for Boys at Penetanguishene, he said the average population there is 133 and the cost per capita $218, which was less than institutions in the United States.

He said the Toronto asylum farm showed a profit for the year of $186, besides providing the very best description of employment for the patients.

Asylum Farm Profits.

The farm at London had cost the province $10,100 and yielded $17,781, a profit of $7600. At Hamilton the farm had yielded a profit of $8332, at Mimico $5105 and at Brockville $5145. This record, he held, was most encouraging on three grounds: first, as proof that the institutions were well managed; second, that due economy was practised, and third, that the inmates were ministering to the needs of the people.

Explanation of Increases.

Speaking of the estimated expenditure for 1900 he said that $253,207 was spent on civil government in 1899 and $263,640 was asked for 1900. The extra amount was owing to increase in salaries and other small items.

Under the head of legislation, $133,200 was asked, the cost last year being $115,200. Hon. gentlemen would notice that in many cases last year there had been a considerable recovery, and it was in order to avoid this that the extra grant was asked for legislation.

For administration of justice a slight increase was asked, from $447,863 spent in 1899, to $448,649.

In education the increase asked was from $735,012 to $750,048. A word or two of explanation was due in regard to this item. It was necessary to increase the inspection from year to year. Last year the amount was insufficient. It was proposed this year to increase the inspection of Separate Schools, which had always been inadequate, and $1000 was asked for this purpose. Whereas there were 74 schools to each public School inspector, there were 173 schools to each Separate School inspector. Under the statute, inspectors were required to make two visits a year to each school. Separate Schools inspectors had only been able to make one visit heretofore.

Money for Public Buildings.

For public institutions maintenance, the increase asked was from $305,488 spent in 1899, to $329,092 estimated for 1900. In agriculture a small increase was asked and a larger vote was also required for public buildings. Under this latter head, $15000 was included for refitting the Cobourg asylum for senile patients, and this would relieve the pressure upon the larger asylums. It was also hoped to transfer the reformatory at Penetang to the County of Oxford, and for this purpose a sum of $30,000 had been asked, of which $10,000 was for the site of the new building, and $20,000 for the building itself. It was believed that this new institution would be more useful as well as more economically managed than the reformatory at Penetang. Some of the older institutions of this character had been built on an extensive and perhaps expensive scale, but the one in Oxford County would, he believed, be conducted with greater economy.

Colonization Roads.

Hon. gentlemen would notice that there was a considerable increase in the grant asked for colonization roads, namely $123,250, instead of $90,464 spent in 1899. Under the policy inaugurated some time ago by the Government it was the intention to push roads in the northern settlements, where it was believed colonization could be effectually carried on. It was the intention of the Government to make the railway the base line for the construction of colonization roads and in that way give the settler easy access to the surrounding country. In the Rainy River District there was a tract to be opened up, comprising at least 1,000,000 acres of fertile land, and in the Temiscaming District an area varying from 800,000 to 1,000,000 acres. In the winter this latter district was almost inaccessible to the settlers, who had to make a journey of 140 miles to go 80 miles. It would not do to lock up the settler in this district from November to May, as was now practically the case. The Government hoped to be able to open up at least one road from the neighborhood of North Bay to the head of Lake Temiscaming at an early date and furnish a winter route to settlers in the northern country, whereby they could reach the railway and the outer world.

He called attention to an item in the refund account of $61,000 for asylum lands. This covered the mortgages held after the sale in 1899, when the Government had received only one-fourth of the money in cash. The mortgages were taken by the trust company guaranteed. This was an increase which needed the explanation he had given.

The Increases Figured Out.

The estimates submitted to the House showed an increase over last year's estimates of $313,704 and over last year's expenditure of $249,414. When the items of current expenditure would come before the House the Government would be able to show that every increase was warranted. But, speaking in general terms of the increase, he would say that it was for purposes of development. There would be development for the drainage of the country and other matters.

Looks for a Surplus.

He said: "I can, with confidence, make the statement that we can meet the expenditure of the current year out of ordinary revenue, and have in addition a handsome surplus. Perhaps it will be $200,000. Last year's surplus was $400,000."

Commission Settled Controversy.

Coming to deal with the assets of the province, he alluded to the controversy that had been carried on for many years on this head. It was to settle the controversy and to ascertain exactly the financial condition of the province that the commission had been appointed.

How He Figures Out Assets.

He called attention to the following particulars:

Direct investments:		
Drainage debentures	$112,231 87	
Tile debenture coupons	113,421 82	
Municipal drainage assessments	34,877 99	
Sault Ste. Marie debentures	25,572 50	
		$ 286,104 18
Funds held by the Dominion in behalf of Ontario, upon which interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum has been settled as payable to the province half-yearly:		
U. C. Grammar school fund	$ 312,769 04	
U. C. Building fund	1,472,301 41	
Land improvement fund	124,685 18	
Fund created under Act of 1884	2,848,289 52	
		$4,758,135 15
Common school fund held by the Dominion on behalf of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec upon which interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum is payable, divisible as between the provinces in ratio of last decennial census, $2,536,411.48; upon basis of 1891 census, Ontario's share being	1,488,482 48	
		6,246,617 63
Bank balances:		
Current accounts	$374,706 62	
Special accounts	461,308 77	
		836,195 39
		$7,368,917 20

Statement of Liabilities.

Balance of account current with the Dominion from Confederation to date, including Common school fund and other transfers, capitalization of the bounty of the Crown under tribal treaties assumed by the Dominion, the capital having been apportioned to the provinces under various awards with interest upon the said account current, and including interest as between Ontario and Quebec not finally adjusted		$2,090,000 00
Railway certificates — present value	$1,156,831 18	
Annuities Certificates — present value	1,897,044 94	
		3,053,876 12
Liability to other Crown trusts in connection with certain land sales, the mortgages for which were taken over by these trusts upon the guarantee of the consolidated revenue fund		61,297 62
Common school fund collections by Ontario, from 1st Jan. 1889, payable by the Dominion, in trust for both provinces	$6,804 79	
Less Ontario's share upon basis of last census	3,993 37	
		2,811 42
		$5,117,985 16

Subtraction and Surplus.

This statement settled the old contention, and showed that after deducting liabilities from assets there was a surplus of $2,250,932. The arguments of the Opposition as to the surplus had grown monotonous, and there would now be no further need to keep them up. The province was now in the safe position to go into large undertakings for the development of the country.

$1,000,000 for Good Roads.

For the next ten years it was the intention of the Government to spend $100,000 a year on improved roads. The Government was also prepared to meet a reasonable expenditure for cold storage for the benefit of the farmers, as well as a reasonable appropriation for drainage works, which would really be of a provincial character.

Drainage Works in Prospect.

There were large areas in the counties of Perth, Elgin, Kent, Essex and elsewhere where money spent on drainage would reclaim large areas. The Government regarded this as a provincial work.

Mr. Ross went on to dilate upon the report of the Financial Commission upon the satisfactory condition of the bookkeeping in the departments.

Validity of Assets.

Proceeding, Mr. Ross endeavored to prove the validity of the provincial assets. Nearly half of the revenue was, he said, derived from the Lumber industry, and the province was indebted to that extent to the arrangements made at Confederation, and was accordingly grateful to the fathers of Confederation. The chief source of revenue had been from the woods and forests. From this source alone there had been derived $23,871,892 since Confederation. In interest on investments the province had received $8,334,334, which effectually disposed of the argument of hon. gentlemen opposite, that the province had no investments to realize upon. According from the report of the Financial Commission, he said that during the first seven years the receipts of the province reached nearly $5,000,000, and during the seven 25 years there had always been considerable, and at times large sums for investment. The interest on this uncovered money was aggregated over $3,000,000, or an average of $133,106 per annum, which was equivalent to 4 per cent. on a continuous investment of over $2,500,000. [Applause.]

The province had also received $6,743,548 by way of interest on special funds held by the Dominion, which, with the three million and odd dollars, made a total of about $10,000,000 in interest received from the Dominion in the last 32 years. No country, he declared, could be bankrupt that could keep such large trust funds invested.

What the Commission Says.

The assets of the province, he said, were quoted by the commission at $7,368,719, which was declared to be the actual cash on hand, and funds upon which the province annually received interest from year to year. The commission had also declared that the municipal debentures were good. More than six million dollars of the total assets consisted of five funds held by the Dominion, viz., the Upper Canada Grammar School fund, the Upper Canada Building Fund, the Land Improvement Fund, and a refund of certain accounts and the proceeds of common school land sales.

The Refund Account.

The refund account amounting, according to the commission, to $2,848,289, was the disputed ground between the Government and hon. gentlemen opposite. The Opposition said it was not an asset, because it could not be realized, but the Government held that the Dominion was bound to pay that money over to the province whenever it was wanted. It was practically a refund of various accounts retained as interest by the Dominion, upon an assumed excess debt of the late Province of Canada, with interest to the province added, and was made up of principal, $1,663,239, and interest accretions, $1,185,050.

The commission declared, said Mr. Ross, that it is quite clear that the semi-annual payments of interest on these assets can be hypothecated—[hear, hear]—and the money proceeds thereof, he thought. This, he held, was all the better as its duration was to a certain extent determined by statute.

Mr. Matheson: "The same argument applies exactly to the subsidy we receive from the Dominion Government."

Mr. Ross: "I am placing the statement of these finances against that of the hon. gentleman. [Government applause.] I am glad to be fortified in my preconceived opinion by the report of the commission."

The Crucial Point.

The crucial point of the whole matter, and which would determine whether the province could realize upon this sum of $2,848,289, was set forth in correspondence between himself and the Minister of Finance for the Dominion. Mr. Fielding said: "I do not think your Government has any unconditional right to demand this money from the Dominion."

Mr. Matheson: "Hear, hear."

Mr. Ross (continuing): "There are certain limitations provided by the statutes, but no doubt if you desired to obtain the money you could easily comply with these conditions. [Government applause.] And so we could. [Applause.] The terms are practically unconditional. The condition is the adoption of legislation by this House, and as long as we have that sacred majority of seven, I think the House would approve of any reasonable legislation. But we do not want it. We do not need it. It is better to have it invested by the Dominion."

Dominion Legislation Necessary.

Mr. Matheson: "Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say it is not necessary to get legislation on the part of the Dominion?"

Mr. Ross: "I did not say so. Maybe it is. Continuing, he said Sir Fielding's letter stated that considerable sums from this account had been drawn by the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, British Columbia and Manitoba. [Hear, hear.] Mr. Fielding also said: "I am of opinion you would not have the right to withdraw these moneys for the ordinary purposes of government.—[Opposition applause,]—but that Parliament intended that they might be withdrawn with the previous sanction of the Legislature for local improvements." [Government applause.] "I have no reason to doubt," he continued, quoting from Mr. Fielding, "that if, instead of raising the moneys for your public works by the issue of securities, you had seen fit to make application under the Act for a portion of these moneys from the Dominion, the Government of the day would have recognized this as a proper use of the moneys, and would have authorized the payment of the sum required." [Government applause.]

Had a Pointer for Fielding.

Mr. Ross referred with satisfaction to a letter from Mr. Fielding, Finance Minister at Ottawa, to the effect that the province had a conditional right to demand the funds held by the Dominion, and there would be no objection by the Dominion if the demand were made.

Mr. Matheson: A former Minister of Justice had a different opinion.

Mr. Ross: We have heard that old wife's tale lots of times. I assume that Mr. Fielding made this statement in good faith.

He went on to say that Ontario could compare more than favorably with Quebec, where the province had a gross debt of $35,000,000, and the financial position was most deplorable. Ontario could rejoice in the contrast. We have a surplus of $2,250,000.

Mr. Matheson: The commission did not deduct the liabilities from the assets.

Mr. Ross: We can subtract. The hon. gentleman can multiply with great facility. He went on to quote the report of the financial commission as to the examination of the books of the Treasurer's Department. The commission satisfied the country that the Government was not in the habit of holding anything back, that there was no gnome burrowing in the dark as had been the Opposition had been looking for so long. The commission had gone the length of complimenting the provincial auditor, an officer of the House, not of the Government.

Mr. Ross rejoiced to have the report of the Financial Commission behind him when presenting his first budget speech. It was a most satisfactory record of the past 30 years. He assured the Opposition that the business of the province for the next 30 years would be conducted on similar lines. [Applause.] The Government was closing the century well. He expected himself to deliver half a score of future budget speeches. [Applause.]

In conclusion he did not believe that the supplementary estimates would be very large, but could not yet speak positively.

MR. MATHESON'S REPLY.

He Asked a Few Pertinent Questions Which Are Difficult to Answer.

Mr. Matheson, in opening his criticism of the speech, said that what the people wanted was a plain, simple statement as to whether the ordinary revenue of the province was equal to the ordinary expenditure—[hear, hear]—and this was buried in the confused statement of figures and statistics they had just listened to. The impression which Mr. Ross had endeavored to convey was that the ordinary receipts for 1899 exceeded the expenditure by some $400,000. That, he contended, was a fiction. Included in these receipts were payments from drainage debentures—the assets of the province—which were not a source of income at all. [Applause.]

Sales Without Advertising.

Other items included in the receipts were sales of public properties, including the Toronto Asylum and the property at the corner of Queen and Yonge-streets—

Mr. Whitney: "Without advertising." [Hear, hear.]

Mr. Matheson: "Without advertising since 1895. It does not look well that there should be a private sale without advertising and without competition. [Applause.] It does not look well that an item of that sort should be put in the receipts as casual revenue [Hear, hear.] This is an item of capital received from the sale of capital of this province and placed among the casual revenue, where it might easily be concealed." Then they found also included as revenue the bonuses from timber sales—some $2,000. If these bonuses had all been paid in cash they might have increased the surplus by half or three-quarters of a million more. There were also included sales of common school lands $9119—trust money, not available for any purpose.

Mr. Whitney: "Hear, hear."

Mr. Matheson: "This also is put in the receipts to make a surplus."

The Actual Receipts.

These deductions amount to $447,000, and if they were added to the actual receipts, leave $3,648,000, or $62,000 less than the expenditure. [Opposition applause.] To show that our claim that we have been going behind year by year is correct, I have to show you that, had it not been for the new taxes imposed last session, we would have had a deficit of over $400,000. [Applause.] We had from taxes other than license fees, $217,000, and from increase in brewers and distillers' licenses some $97,000. These two items of new taxation amounted to over $300,000. Then we have had increases in the fees charged to chartered companies, which bring in an extra $57,000, so that there is new revenue—practically direct taxation—amounting to some $300,000. Even with that increase the Government failed to pay their expenses. [Applause.]

Mr. Matheson is Sarcastic.

"Are we to have a fresh timber sale whenever we are behind?" he asked, "timber sales which should be denounced from one end of the country to the other—[applause]—and conducted by a Minister of the Crown, who, in the North Waterloo election, used his influence to have a man placed in the position of deputy returning officer—whether as an agent of the machine or not is immaterial—a man who turned 21 ballots cast for the Opposition in favor of the Government, a total of 42 votes—this man recommended by a Minister of the Crown—and who also altered and disfigured some 18 other ballots, or 60 altogether. And, sir, we have this Minister, who, for such a thing in England, would be driven from public life, taken out of the only into the Government, but promoted to be Minister of Crown Lands. [Applause.] He did a wrongful act in North Waterloo, and he must take the consequence of all that follows—whether he was criminally acquainted with the matter and acted as an agent of the machine, or simply became the tool of the machine to do their work.

Timber Sale in December.

"Here," he continued, "we have a timber sale held in December, when no man can look at the limits."

Mr. Whitney: "Hear, hear."

Mr. Matheson: "They cannot go in by water nor can they go by snowshoes, for there was no snow. On one month's notice we have timber limits put up for sale, bringing in a bonus of $753,000, and I am satisfied the province has lost money—hundreds of thousands of dollars—on that very sale—[applause]—by reason of having a man in charge of the department who is as weak and incapable as the hon. gentleman has proved himself to be in his defence of the North Waterloo case."

Continuing, he said the estimated statement of receipts for 1900 was $3,063,000, and of expenditure $4,086,000, leaving a deficit of $120,000.

Mr. Ross: "What about cash in hand?"

Mr. Matheson: "That shows the hon. gentleman knows about the subject. I am talking about whether the present year will pay its way. We want to know whether year by year we are paying our running expenses out of the annual receipts." [Applause.]

Mr. Harcourt called attention to an item of provincial tax, $220,000 in the estimated receipts which had been added since the abstract was distributed to the members and which he thought the speaker had overlooked.

Mr. Matheson: "It is only by the aid of nearly $400,000 of extra taxation that we will make that up." [Applause.]

A Pertinent Question.

"Who," he continued, "ever heard of a ministry 30 years in power appointing a royal commission to find out the real financial condition of the province. If there is anything that has hurt the Government among their own friends it is the appointment of that royal commission. [Applause.] They appoint a commission to investigate their own conduct. The appointment of such a commission means that they have lost the confidence of the country and hope to be whitewashed. Any body of men who lend themselves to such whitewashing process deserve the reprobation of all honest citizens. The point I make against them is that they have no business to sign any financial document of which they have not personal knowledge themselves." [Hear, hear.] Continuing, he contended that Ontario could not make the Dominion pay over the $3,150,000 of school moneys held by them. The commission, he said, practically held that it was an asset that could not be touched. The money was held in trust for the municipalities. There was a question of municipal rights as well as of provincial rights. Then there was the question of the award of 1884, which said that $142,000 was to be paid to Ontario as subsidy, the contention of Mr. Fielding, he declared, was that Ontario had no right to get the principal of that $142,000. If the province had no right to this sum then it had no right to include $2,000,000 in their capital assets. Another point he desired to make was that the commissioners had declared that the railway debt and annuities were liabilities of the province. To summarize, the liabilities to railways, the annuities, the debt to the Dominion and the common school fund amounted to $5,421,000, and the only asset available to pay this sum was the drainage debentures of $286,000 and the cash in the bank, $826,000, or $1,112,000 altogether. Deducting this from the debt, the province owed to-day $4,300,000. [Applause.]

At 6 o'clock the House adjourned. The debate will be resumed by Mr. Matheson this afternoon.

ASSEMBLY NOTES.

Mr. Carnegie will enquire how many students were in attendance at the Western Dairy School during the sessions of 1898-99 and 1899-1900.

Mr. Russell will introduce a bill allowing municipalities to adopt proportional representation.

Loan Companies Bill.

The loan company managers were first to be taken into the confidence of Attorney-General Gibson yesterday, with regard to the provisions of the Loan Companies Bill, which will be brought into the Legislature this session.

It is understood the bill will provide that companies now in corporate existence with terminating capital will remain unaffected by the new policy of not giving Government incorporation to such companies. Existing obligations will also remain unaffected by the provision with regard to partly paid up shares. Company bylaws affecting shareholders must be passed by a two-thirds value vote.

The chief feature of the bill is the extension of the lending powers of companies. Borrowing power, on the other hand, will be limited to four times the amount of paid up capital, even when taking deposits.

The bill has been framed to meet the desires of the loan companies in a variety of ways.

Bonus Hunters.

Are the great Cramps of Philadelphia bonus hunters? The Town of Collingwood wants power to bonus the Cramps for one year on fifty acres, for the proposed blast furnace. The outside assessment of the enterprise would be fixed at $700,000.

Let Councils Fix Them.

Mr. Fox (West