

## THE INDEPENDENT AND CONSERVATIVE PRESS OF CANADA

-ON-

# THE MOWAT GOVERNMENT.

## A FAVORABLE VERDICT.

### The "Mail" on the Financial Administration of the Province.

On April 11th, 1890, the *Mail* said editorially :—"The Government can also make out a good case for itself in regard to its administration of the finances. After dealing liberally by the municipalities and exhibiting a creditable enterprise in building railways and erecting public institutions, Mr. Mowat is able to show a comfortable surplus. Instead of having a surplus of five or six millions in the treasury, Quebec has a debt of thirty millions, and, in spite of the direct taxes imposed on commercial corporations and of other revenue-raising devices, a fresh loan is inevitable. It must also be admitted that Mr. Mowat has passed many progressive measures affecting the general interests of the community, AND THAT, ON THE WHOLE, HIS MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN CLEAN AND FREE FROM SCANDAL. These are POWERFUL reasons for giving him a new term."

In an editorial on Feb. 13, 1890, it also said : " . . . The Ontario Government's management of the finances has been thrifty, judicious and clean."

When the Mowat Government was returned to power four years ago the *Mail* had this to say :—"Mr. Mowat's victory is due in the main to the fact that the people have confidence in his individual probity. His administration of affairs has been singularly free from scandal, and it must be admitted also that his legislation has been progressive, and, on the whole, well in accord with the spirit of the people and their institutions"

### A Contrast with Quebec.

The *Montreal Gazette*, the ablest Conservative journal in Canada, says :—"On the whole we are spending two and a half millions annually more than Ontario, and how long we should continue to maintain this ratio is a problem well worthy the serious attention of those who take an interest in our public affairs. It follows, of course, that Quebec collects a larger revenue than the sister province. Ontario depends for her income principally upon three sources, the Dominion subsidy, the license tax and the revenue from crown lands ; while Quebec, over and above these, has been compelled to levy tribute upon commercial corporations, and to impose a tax upon all trades and professions."

### The Montreal "Witness."

*Montreal Witness* (Independent), Dec. 27th, 1893 :—"Sir Oliver Mowat has given the Province of Ontario twenty-one years of administration so honest and economical, so capable and so free even from ill report, that his political foes have been constrained to praise both him and his administration. If the Ontario exchequer is to-day that of a wealthy Province, when all other Provinces are plunging deeper and deeper into public debt, it is owing to the just and economical government of Sir Oliver Mowat."

### The "Montreal Insurance Chronicle."

The *Montreal Insurance and Finance Chronicle*, April 15th, 1894 :—"The annual statement of the Treasurer of Ontario, even if the criticisms of the opponents of the