

Assets of this class amounting to.....	\$27,023,754	
Grand Trunk Railway.....	\$15,142,633	
Interest (over 60 per cent)...	9,556,202	24,699,835
Great Western Railway.....	2,810,500	
Interest (nearly 40 per cent)	1,033,036	3,843,536
Northern Railway.....	2,311,667	
Interest (nearly 60 per cent)	1,313,310	3,624,977
Assets of this class about as available as the Windsor and Annapolis Railway subsidy.....		32,172,348
Loan funds, Bank accounts and other miscellaneous assets.....	12,341,923	12,341,923
		\$71,543,025

Take out the most valuable of the above, which will probably be selected by arbitrators who apportion the debt between Ontario and Quebec, and given to them..... 9,043,025

And you have the amount assumed by the Dominion, \$62,500,000

The \$32,172,348 might be put down as worthless debts and accumulations of interest, \$9,000,000, of the \$12,341,923, consisted of loan funds and interest, the greater part of which was quite as worthless. The enormous sum invested in the Canals did not pay the current expenses and repairs of the works, so there were really no assets that would yield as much over their working expenses as the Nova Scotia Railway might do if properly and economically managed. The assets also included road and bridge grants, while if those grants in Nova Scotia were taken as assets the whole debt would be cancelled by them alone. The fact was that if Nova Scotia had been left in possession of the railroad, the Dominion would have had as good an equivalent in her assets as it has in the assets of Canada. And yet we are told the Canadians have taken no advantage of us, neither have they any disposition to do so.

MR. MORRISON remarked that the Canadian railroads referred to by Mr. Dickie had failed to pay their working expenses by \$18,000 in one year, and Canada had to guarantee a loan of two millions to put them in repair.

The Committee adjourned. The House adjourned.

#### Evening Session.

The House resumed at 7.30.

Dr. MURRAY said he had intended to refer to the general state of the Province at some length, but as so much had already been said on that subject, he would confine his attention to matters connected with his own country. It was well known that the constituents of every member took a deep interest, as they had a right to do, in the amount of road money given to the different counties, and the manner in which those money were expended. He believed that Pictou county had a greater length of roads and a greater number of bridges than any other county, excepting perhaps Halifax. Now the mines were being opened up at a distance from the main roads requiring facilities for communication. The late government appeared to have run into the same extravagance and recklessness as regarded the road expenditure which had been displayed in

all the other branches of the public service. An endeavor had been made to falsify matters with regard to the financial affairs of the county in order to deceive the people and to embarrass their representatives. To make his meaning plain he would read from an article which had appeared in a late number of the "Colonial Standard":

"The statement that the late members for the county, which we take to be the meaning of the charge made by the "Chronicle," mortgaged the county for \$3000 in over expenditure, is simply untrue. We do not know what amount of over-expenditure may have appeared against this county at the close of the past year for the road and bridge service; but we are not aware that any over-expenditure was made by the late members. We know that when they entered the Legislature, and the "Eastern Chronicle" will find the fact recorded on the journals of the House, they found a legacy left them by their predecessors of an over-expenditure of \$2000. They did not pay off this sum, but continued to expend the sums to which they were legitimately entitled, every year, and the last session they attended they provided for the interest of this \$2000 as usual, and left it a charge on the county just as they found it. So that this assertion, that our friends mortgaged the county for \$3000, turns out to be one of those stories made out of whole cloth, for which the "Chronicle" is so famous; the fact being exactly the reverse, as it was their predecessors and his friends who mortgaged the county for \$2000. How the extra \$1000 was incurred we are not prepared to say."

He need hardly say that these representations were false from beginning to end. They contained two assertions, the first of which was that when the late members came into power they found the county in debt by \$2000; the second was that the writer was unable to say how the additional debt of \$1000 had been incurred. He then read from the Journals of 1863 a resolution for the appropriation of road moneys for the County of Pictou, which showed that instead of the county being then in debt, there remained to its credit as undrawn road moneys to be appropriated, \$397.26. He afterwards read from the Journals of 1867 a resolution for the appropriation for the road and bridge service of the county \$11,520, being the ordinary road grant for the year, together with a special grant of \$2782 and \$621.05 of undrawn moneys of 1866, and "also \$3000 borrowed under an act of 1867." That made \$17,923.05 to be appropriated, and showed beyond a doubt who it was that laid this debt of \$3000 on the county. The person therefore who had been guilty of making the assertions which he referred to had committed a heinous crime, and had attempted to spread the belief that the present members found the county no more in debt than she had been in 1864. The House might suppose that the large sum granted in 1867 was ample to meet the requirements of the county, but an election had to be run, and the members, not content with mortgaging the country for \$3000, run into large expenditures besides. With a view of being accurate in his statements he requested the Deputy Provincial Secretary to prepare the following abstract, shewing the liabilities of Pictou County, when the present members were elected in the fall of 1867:

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