

ests ; but as a financier, he must be acknowledged to have been infinitely preferable to his successor. The one was only incapable, the other proved dangerously mischievous. Mr. Robertson had already gone a long way and made a very doubtful step, when he proposed to borrow \$4,000,000 to aid railway enterprises, in one of which, it is well to remember, he himself was known to be deeply interested. Mr. Church overreached himself completely, and sank both himself and the Province into the mire, when he sought to improve upon Mr. Robertson's doing, and assumed the North Shore and Northern Colonization Railway Lines as Government enterprises, borrowing, for the purpose of carrying them through, another \$4,000,000, and securing the power of issuing Railway Debentures for \$3,000,000 more, the payment of which was guaranteed by the Province. His boast when remonstrated with by Mr. Joly, on account of the seeming recklessness of his expenditure, will not be readily forgotten. This province has secured to it by the Dominion subsidy, a borrowing power of \$20,000,000. These enterprises, fraught with danger to the public, had very materially strengthened the hand of the Ministry in the house. It is computed that at least one-fifth of the Members composing the last Legislative Assembly, were more or less directly interested in some one of the lines under subsidy, and the public generally, with the thoughtlessness which so often marks the conduct of large bodies of men, as compared with the caution which more usually characterizes each man's conduct in his private affairs, were perhaps not displeased to see large enterprises prosecuted which would be sure to cause the expenditure of considerable sums, and did not choose too closely to enquire into the facts of the case, taking for granted the correctness of the representations made by the Treasurer that the receipts would more than pay the interest on the outlay, and that the imposition of no new taxes would be required. The more clear-sighted, and those who did not choose wilfully to blind themselves, saw the consequences likely to attend the terrible mistake which was being committed, and not a few raised their voices in earnest warning, among others Mr. Joly and his faithful little band of Liberals ; but their remonstrances were disregarded, their intreaties unheeded, and Mr. Angers' Railway policy as it has since been called, was *carried*. There was one man who voted with the Government then, and who knew better than any other in the House the results which must inevitably follow