

EDITORS & PROPRIETORS.

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WHOLE NO 695.

When our indebtedness matures we will owe about a million dollars and will have to pay about \$60,000 every year, and this forms a very serious charge and reduces the amounts necessary for the services of the country. He called the attention of the House to the fact that from year to year the balance had been decreasing and not an actual deficit had to be met. Now we are \$43,000 behind. There is a deficit existing this year though there have been exceptional sources of income and the balances of \$65,000 from the crown lands; though we have re-

received \$81 600 from exceptional sources in loans, in-advance on the library and immigration, we are \$43 000 behind, and the payment of salaries has been deferred till after the fiscal year in order that the account shall make a good exhibit. In 1876 there was a balance of \$128 000; in 1877 of \$96 000; in 1878 of \$40 000; and since then there has been a balance against us. These facts point to the necessity of making some constitutional as well as other changes. He had an aversion to making such changes, but, if necessary, they should be made, if they could be, without

being prejudicial to the interests of the country. The public mind looks to the abolition of the Legislative Council as a change that will do some good in that direction and be productive of little if any harm. When the Union took place it was felt that the subjects with which the Local Legislature had to deal were so reduced in importance that some of the legislative machinery would be done away with. At the very least \$12,000 is required every year to meet the expenses of the Legislative Council. The Legislative Council has not done much work of legislation of late years. It is said

they discharge the duties of a law clerk. For some years there has not been a lawyer in the Legislative Council, and the result was that they had thrown out bills that should have passed. The Legislative Council had been used for a very improper purpose by existing Governments. Vacancies have been allowed to exist to the whole term of the existence of the House, in order that seats might be offered to friends of a Government in the House. With former Governments it was a notorious fact that members were sitting on the floors of this House who had no right to be there.

Mr. Blair also referred to another subject—the reduction of the number of the Executive. He said that Ontario and Nova Scotia got along with a reduced Executive, and as eight members have a very preponderating influence on the House, he would favor a reduction to seven, having in view a change to five.

year. He felt that in the future if the Government House were not maintained the Governor would save a large amount every year. Hon members are invited to Government House when they come here, and there may be a ball occasionally, but who would care to maintain it for that? Why should there be all the paraphernalia at the opening of the House, which in reality only a large municipality could afford? By the changes he had mentioned there would be a saving of \$20,000 a year. There is a deep set feeling of dissatisfaction with the present man-

agement of educational matters; the best friends of the system are complaining. The ground of dissatisfaction arises out of the management of affairs within the limit of the law itself. A more practical and economical management is demanded. It is evident from the way in which the superintendent deals with the subject that he is aware of the complaints. He did not think there was a necessity of any amendment to the law. The last Act in regarding the law intensified the dissatisfaction. The result may be that some day the people will sweep the Act from the statute book.

a result that every one would deplore. Since the passage of the Inspectors' Act the report says the progress has been marvellous. If this is so, it is strange that the country from one end to the other should be dissatisfied with it. A saving of \$30,000 a year could be made without impairing the efficiency of the public service. No alteration has been made since Confederation, but the expenses have continued to increase. In 1868 the Executive Government cost \$22,000. In 1880 it cost \$30,000 but this is subject to a reduction of \$7,500 necessary for carrying out the stampage regula-

tions. In 1880 the Legislative expenses were very much greater than in 1868. Why should members now receive \$100 a session when years ago \$200 was only necessary? Why should the Speaker receive \$500 in addition to his seasonal allowance? In 1868 the administration of justice amounted to \$9,000; in 1880, \$13,000. The country expects these matters to be dealt with in a radical spirit and that the annual expenditure shall be taken hold of. He believed in paying public officers well, but an examination of the public offices might show that there were too many clerks. He would not forget

the more efficient ones receive larger salaries and dispense with others. He referred to the Crown Lands Department. He had endeavored to put these matters forward plainly and left it to the House to say if the resolution was worthy of adoption.

Mr. Gillespie seconded the resolution.

Hon. Mr. Wedderburn congratulated the House on the fair and moderate way in which the leader of the Opposition treated the resolution. He thought that members would acquit the leader of the Government with ever treating and treating.

the House in a sneering or contemptuous way. The leader of the Opposition made it a charge against the Government that they made no reply to the charges made against them in the debate on the Address. The Attorney General answered the leader of the Opposition point by point. The Surveyor General in a most conclusive manner answered the gentlemen who preferred charges against him and his department. When the gentlemen from Sunbury moved his want of confidence resolution the Government felt that they were in a position to answer

the charges by keeping silent when  
the only charges was that they were