Record of the Mowat Administration

THE TEST OF TEN YEARS

Gratifying Exhibit of Useful and Beneficent Legislation.

A SERIES OF VALUABLE REFORMS.

Judicious, Economical, and Progressive Administration.

SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The best answer that can be made to the charges formulated against the Liberal Admin istration of Ontario at the late Conservative 'onvention is a plain, unvarnished record of what that Administration has, during the last ten years, been enabled to do for the Province. That record we now propose to give. In order the more clearly to comprehend the work, it is necessary to understand definitely the sphere within which it has been accomplished. That sphere is defined by the British North America Act. Under that Act the Provincial Legislatures are given exclusive power to make laws relating to direct taxation and borrowing money (if necessary); to property, civil rights, educe ment and sale of public lands, woods, and timber; to the establishment, maintenance, and management of public and reformatory prisons, spitals, asylums, and charities; to the inco poration of companies, the control of licenses, and olemnization of marriage; to the establishmen of Provincial offices, with Provincial officers, the administration of justice and the undertaking o local works, and generally all matters of a local and private nature within the Province. By the same Act they were precluded from taking any gation, the imposition of a tariff, and customs generally; criminal law and many other subjects. These matters were relegated to the No Provincial Legislature could touch them. But within the sphere laid down for the action of the Local Legislatures there was ample scope. The matters enumerated affect the material progress, moral well being, and social happiness of every citizen. How have they been dealt with by the present Liberal Administration of Ontario? Ten years have clapsed since they entered office. What, dursphere worked out for them by the British North America Act to increase the material progress, moral well-being, and social happiness of the people of their native Province ! It is this question that we now propose to

The sphere of governmental activity is twofold - legislative and administrative. The record of any Government, therefore, is a record of legislation and administration. What, then, in the first place, has, during the past ten years, been the

1. LEGISLATION OF THE MOWAT ADMINISTRA-

During each of those ten years the number of Bills passed has averaged about ninety. As charmen of Private Bills, Railway, Municipal, wills and to the mortgages and sales of perand other Committees of the House, the members of the Administration have carefully revised all legislation, and all those bills have passed under their supervision. But annually they have introduced on an average some thirty-five public bills, many of which have been measures of the greatest Provincial importance. By them every class of the community has been benefitted.

(a) Election Law and Reform.

Immediately upon coming into power the Liberal Administration turned its attention to perfecting the means whereby the people give effect to their will in the election of representatives to the Legislature. As the result we have the present election law of Ontario. Vote by ballot, the preparation and publication of the voters' lists, independence or parhament, and the speedy trial of controverted elections by the andges, quickly received attention. Two days' polling in one polling place in a township, a eneral election extending over weeks to the utter derangement of business, and the that of election cases before partisan committees of the Legislature, are things of the past. Defects found on trial have, session hy session, been remedied until we can proudly boast that the Election Law of Ontario is one of the most thorough anywhere to be found. And to complete the progress in this direction, they have passed measures conferring the right to the exercise of the franchise, under certain conditions, on those enjoying fixed incomes and on farmers' sons.

(b) Law Rejora.

At the same time they have inaugurated and successfully carried out great law reforms. These began with the passing of the Adminis tration of Justice Act, which was the first attempt at the fusion of law and equity in any

ONTARIO A TON YOURS

THE MOWAT COVERNMENT.

law reforms ever attempted in Canada. By means of it the whole of our existing system was remodelled, the distinction between the courts of law and equity abolished. and the procedure made identical in all our existing courts. By this simplification of legal procedure there has been a consequent reduction of expenditure to suitors. Nor have their law reforms stopped here ; but the whole of the laws dealing with the administration of justice have from time to time been amended and increased ac occasion demanded. By the later Juror Acts and amendments the process of selection has been simplified, the labours of the selectors lightened, and the cost to the municipalities lessened. Witnesses in criminal cases are now paid ; stamp duties in the lower courts have been repealed ; the jurisdiction of the lowest court has been extended provision has promptly been made for the administration of justice in each new section of the Province that has been opened up.

(c) Municipal and School Law Reform. The statutes of some twenty-five years relating to our municipal institutions have been consolidated, and every session has seen some important point added to our municipal law until it merits the encomium passed upon it by the late Chief Justice Harrison, who declared it to be after its consolidation "the most com plete and perfect code of the kind that he knew of in any country of the world." The statutes relating to High and Public Schools have been thoroughly revised and incorporated two Acts which the late Rev. Dr. Rverson leclared were "so important and valuable as o constitute a new era in school legislation. Laws establishing a new Normal School and Training and Model Schools in each county have been passed. By other enactments, he training and examination of teachers, the inspection of schools, and the course of study in all classes of schools have een made at once more elastic and more thorough, and by a revision of the Acts relating to the Provincial University its graduates have been given a voice in its government.

(d) Reforms in Laws Relating to Companies and Classes of the Community

A general Act, skilfully drawn, has been passed, whereby all Joint Stock, Co-operative, Building and Loan, Benevolent, Provident, and like Socie ties can become incorporated at small expense and trouble. And not only have they thus facilitated trade and manufactures, but the inerests of stock and policy holders are carefully guarded. Especially is this true in the case of Insurance Companies, where, by laws establishing annual reporting and continual in spection, the interests of the public are proserved, and those interests have continually been sought. In laws establishing prisons for the vicious and additional asylums for the afflicted, providing for the assistance of every laudable private charity, and ensuring the thorough maintenance and inspection of all public institutions, is this fact shown. In enactments facilitating the adjustment of dis putes between masters and workmen : in se curing to mechanics, labourers, and others a ien on the property on which their labour is expended or their materials used; in preserving the rights of boarders and lodgers : in providing for immigration and the easy solemnization of marriage; in encouraging the development of agriculture and horticulture. and by many other enactments of a like nature, is it proven. By the License Act it has faced the great social question of temperance, and by the Board of Health Act that of public health whilst by the Civil Service Act it has attempted the solution of the question of civil service reform.

(e) Reforms in Law of Real and Personal Property.

No improvements in the laws of real and personal property adopted in English-speaking countries have failed to be incorporated into ours. whereas numerous enactments peculiar to our own have been passed. The laws relating to sonal property are examples. Neither our space nor our readers' time will allow the list to be lengthened, and we must conclude by men tioning the fact that all the statutes of the old Province of Canada before Confederation and of Ontario since that time, so far as they relate to this Province, have, under the direction and supervision of the Mowat Administration, been consolidated into the admirable code known as the Revised Statutes of Ontario.

Such is the record - the proud record - in legislation of the Liberal Administration of Ontario for the past ten years. Every question has been met, every public want satisfied, every class bene itsed every reform anticipated. It is with the utmost pride that every friend of that Administration can point to such legislationlegislation that, as we have already said, has done so much in these ten years to advance the material progress, the moral well-being, and the social happiness of the people of

Not only, however, has the legislation been thorough, but success has attended the prudent

II. ADMINISTRATION OF THE MOWAT GOVERN-

Neither the Dominion nor any of the Pro vinces can speak of foreign affairs. But in their place there are inter-provincial matters. With all of those that have come up in our history as a Province this Administration has had to deal. The first was

The Ontario and Quebec Assets Award. At Confederation it was agreed that the public should be apportioned between the Dominion, Ontario, and Quebec. Arbitrators were ap-State using the English law. It was followed by pointed and an award was made. On taking the Judicature Act, one of the most extensive office the present Government found that of the greatest public utility. In this way, by This free grant territory of Northern Ontario sides those duties they make the outline plans

was decided that the Award was a perfect valid one, as Ontario had always The second of these questions was

The Inter-Provincial Box This was the unsurveyed boundary be Ontario and Quebec. That, too, was the Liberal Government. entered upon and far northward as no satisfaction of both Provinces. The third of inese questions related to the

Northern and Western Boundaries The subject in debate was as to how far vest and north Ontario extended. She came into Confederation with the territory of old Upper Canada, and therefore the question was not new. For it was in dispute between Old Canada and the Hudson Bay Company. Chief Justice Draper had argued it before a committee of the British House of Commons. Immediately on the Liberal Government being formed steps were taken by them to have it solved. The Dominion and Ontario did not at first gree as to the mode of settling it. Ultimate ly they agreed to appoint arbitrators. Ontario selected Chief Justice Harrison, Quebec Sir Francis Hineks The third was Sir Edward Thornton, the British Ambassador at Washing ton. Our Government prepared the case for Some of the questions had been in debate for two centuries, the documents and papers had to be gathered from hundreds of old volumes ; scores of old maps were to be consuited, and the archives of London, Paris, Washing ton, Albany, Ottawa, and Quebec were ransacked. The case was heard. An award-and a tac first the Government did the drainage animous award was made. Ontario did not and charged the munic get all she claimed, but it was now for the first ime officially declared that she possessed and had always possessed a territory of 200,000 square miles. North-Western Ontario was declared to be as large in area as the older settled portion of the Province, and to contain ome 98,000 square miles. Owing to the ealousy of a few of the Quebec politicians, the Dominion Government has never ratified this award. Through their dishenourable and owardly action Ontario has not as yet entered into possession of her Great North-West, declared to be hers mainly through the energy and ability of the present Liberal Administra

Not alhed to these interprovincial questions. but yet an extraordinary question of admini tration and one which we will therefore consider in this place, was

The Distribution of the Surplus.

The essential functions of Government are egislation, civil government, and the administration of justice. The due and economical performance of those functions absorbs but oneifth of the annual revenue of Ontario, For some time after Confederation little else was done. Gradually a great deal more was undertaken, but, however, at the end of the adminstration of the Hon, John Sandfield Macionaid in 1871 there had been saved out of revenue a surplus of some 3,000, 000 dollars. The Hon. J. S. Macdonald, acting at last on the sound principle that "hoarding is not true economy," proposed to spend \$1,500,000 of it on railways. Defeated n the objectionable features of his scheme, the motion fell to his successors, and the handling of the measure has been done by the Mowat Administration. The surplus of \$3,000,000 mentioned has been increased year by year by various annual sums saved out of revenue, and the whole has been again distributed to the

(a) Extinguishment of the Municipal Loan

(b) Aid to railways ; (c) Municipal drainage.

We will explain each of those schemes order, and so take up in the first place

(a) The Municipal Loan Debts.

The municipalities of the Province had berrowed from Old Canada various sums of money to make their gravel roads, build bridges, town halls, court-houses, gaols, and such other works of public utility. These debts amounted in 1872 to over \$12,000,000. Some municipaliites were paying the interest, others were not. Many owing large sums had paid nothing for years, and the body of the people, including, of course, the unindebted municipalities, were paving the interest of their borrowed money. Important sections of the Province were retarded in the march of unprovement. Some municipalities could never pay their a condition placed many of them under the control of the Government of the day.

That was the problem. And it was solved. By means of a portion of the surplus the indebted municipalities were relieved of their liability without injustice to the unindebted. They paid to the extent of their ability, and on certain well-defined principles. What they could not pay the Province did, proportionately, to the unindebted municipalities. In the settlement no party preferences were observed. The scheme was comprehensive, just, popular, and successful. The Municipal Loan debts are almost extinguished, and the evils of their continuance have gone with them. Under During the same time there have been the ten institutions already mentioned, viz., the Act there was distributed up to the 1st issued 5,830 timber licenses, covering 15,612 the five asylums, two institutions for the deaf of January last the sum of \$5,321,337. This square miles, and an annual average of some and dumb and for the blind, the Central Prison, money has been spent in building, or assisting 3,506 saw-log and square timber returns have boys' reformatory, and the female reforma debt and assets of the old Province of Canada in building, roads, bridges, town halls, schools, been received and checked. railways, in town and village improvements, in improving harbours, buying show grounds and work of this department of administration has ups, 13 hospitals, 14 houses of refuge, 5 Magparks, in drainage, and many other works—all been the opening up of the free grant lands. dalen asylums, and 19 orphan asylums. Be

baset the only railways serving the Pro-ps in 1871 were the Grand Trunk, the Western, the Northern (half what it

riturny through almost every county in the l'ovince the sum of \$3, 145,649. The expenditure of this amount of money during the last try years has tended greatly to encourage in the sum of \$3, 145,649. distry, give markets, stimulate trade, and re-if we depression. And it was directly brought arout by this second mode of the distribution the surplus.

The third mode was

pecially those along Lake Erie and Lake St. tie last two cases, It was two-fold. Under inder the second the Government lent municipalities the money on twenty sterest. In both cases the money is to be repaid, is being now repaid. Under the first sthod there has been spent, up to the 31st Lecember last, the sum of \$364,981, and under the second the further sum of \$239,094, making all, as advances for drainage, the total of 04,075. With this amount there has been taked under the first method about 250,000 res, and under the second about 225,000 vin all, 475,000 acres of valuable land added the cultivable area of the Province within to counties of Kont, Lambton, Middleox, Regin, Lanart, Leanox, Grey, Addington, Herbore, Back, Leads, Valland, Haron, Bruse, Durham, Perth. Hastings, and hattimand. And within the last three years

municipalities are enabled to borrow out thus emulating the action of Great Britain. It of the arable land here may be as great as it has 31st of last December \$21,652 had been so bor-

Altogether there has been distributed out of ways mentioned, the total sum of \$7,092,763; and yet the surplus of our assets over our liabilities is \$4,509,591.

When any thoughtful man, no matter what 000,000 equitably wiped out, 2,121 miles of mercial and agricultural classes thereby securof arabi land in the Province, surely he must be constrained to give credit to the Administration which has finds that the bitterest opponents of that Ad- four years after Confederation, ministration can find nothing in all those extensive and wide-branching schemes to criticize. ar less condemn, he will surely take it as convincing proof that the Government is worthy of his most implicit confidence.

Having recapitulated what may be called the extraordinary matters of administration. we pass to the consideration of the more ordinary departments of administration fulfilling the duties imposed upon the Local Legislatures. and consider in the first place

4 Crown Lands ; Colonization ; and Immigra

We commence with this department of administration not because it is the most important, but because it is most closely connected with what we have already been describing And we include immigration because of its close relation to the occupation and property there was depreciated in value. of lands. During the last ten years lum in Toronto. These represented our public the whole of Northern Ontario has been opened institutions. During the first four years after debts, and a great many would not. And such up. It includes the districts of Muskoka, Confederation there were projected and partly Parry Sound, Nipissing, and Algoma. The brought into operation a Central Prison, policy pursued has been a very liberal one. two lunatic asylums, institutions Free homesteads have been given to every the deaf and dumb, and for actual settler. Not only so, but the districts blind, and an Agricultural College. have been opened out by colonization roads But the completion, development, organizabuilt through them at the public expense. tion, management, and maintenance of these Outside of this by a glance at the British and additional ones have fallen upon the pre-North America Act it will be seen that to the sent Liberal Administration. Since their ad-Local Governments is left "the management vent to power all these matters have been the ber and wood thereon."

erage of over 77,000 acres per annum, exercise the general supervision and control

9,000,000 acres are now surveyed in 122 town purposes. The total acreage located during the ten years was 2,195,331 acres, and the these lands more readily available, colonization hose districts of our fair Province, which at that into the whole Province. During the ten immigrants. Many of those were of the better class and brought money with them. But taking the rate at which the best statisticians value an immigrant, namely, as worth \$800 to a country, and we have the sum of

\$202,903,200 added to the wealth of the coun-

try by that immigration. As each cost about

\$3 to the country, representing a capitalized

value of \$60, there will be left \$187,685,460 as

net amount of the additional national wealth. And the increase of business has naturally kept pace with the rapid progress of the ountry. Taking the first four years after Confederation as a basis, we find that the sales of Crown Lands have during the last ten years ncreased 66 per cent., and of woods and timber 94 per cent. The number of colonization roads constructed has increased 184 per cent., and of roads repaired 125 per grants brauch has been 190 per cent.; whilst in hat of the whole Department it has been within a fraction of 80 per cent. 'And during those ten years not a single allegation has been heard on the floor of the House of an irregular or improper sale of land; an improvident of improper issue of patent; or a corrupt, or imnot pass from this Department without pointing settling Northern Ontario with its free grants and colonization roads, and that taken by th Dominion in settling the great North-West by taking away from actual settlement millions acres in the shape of railway and colonization

2. Public Works.

A mere enumeration of these during the last ten years will be sufficient. We have built one new asylum and doubled-in some cases trebled-the size of four others. The Central is to be hoped that the result in the improvement | Prison, Andrew Mercer Reformatory, School of Practical Science, Ottawa Normal School, been there in consequence thereof. Up till the and the Agricultural College have been built. The Blind and Deaf and Dumb Institutes and the Penetanguishene Reformatory have been greatly enlarged. Many registry offices, gaols, and lock-ups through all the four northern disthe surplus up to the date already given, in the tricts have been erected. On our inland lakes and rivers, to make them navigable and floatable, has been spent \$305,173. The whole of the under the charge of this department of adminnis polities, thinks of a municipal debt of \$12,- istration. The surveying, levelling, cutting and opening, and paying out of the \$604,075 railway built with the advantages to the com- has been done through it. In the same way. on the certificate of the Engineer and report of ed, and of 475,000 acres added to the area the Commissioner, has been paid out on the completion of the 2.121 miles of railway aided the sum of \$3,145,649, which during the ten years has been drawn from the surplus for that so greatly assisted in the development and pro- purpose. And here, too, the work has been gress of the country it governs. But when he about 82 per cent. greater than during the first

> Speaking of the public institutions that have been erected leads naturally to the consideration of the next head of administration

3.—THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC INSTITU-

TIONS. By the British North America Act there is committed to the care of the Provincial Governments "the establishment, maintenance, and management of public and reformatory

prisons ; and of hospitals. "asylums, and charities." To what extent this work should be performed by private charity, the municipalities, or the Government is one of the economical questions continually recurring. In Ontario it is done almost wholly by the Administration of the day. At Confederation there was a gaol in each county or union of counties, a boys' reformatory at Penetanguishene, and one lunatic asyand sale of the public lands and of the tim- subjects of express statutory enactments, thus giving to the Legislature its rightful powers During the last ten years there have been and authority. They were until quite recently old of the public lands 774,035 acres, or an av- governed by one Inspector-now by two. They tory prison. Besides, they attend to the in-But one of the most difficult portions of the spection of 37 county gaols and 5 district lock-

and specifications for all new structures, make to for supplies, and frame by-laws and regulations for the government of the various netitations. We are all unfortunately aware of the growth of the number of the vicious and flicted with the growth of population, and even beyond the growth of population. And we all know how our institutions have had to be inreased to keep pace with it. It will astonish e. to learn that, taking the four years after Confederation as a basis umber of public institutions spected has increased 80 per cent., annumber of annual inspections 53 pe cent. The number of prisoners committee to the gaols and prisons has increased by 10: ople under care, 53 per cent.; that of the deaf, dumb, and blind, also under care, 150 per cent.; and the number of patients and mmate of hospitals and charities, 65 per cent. The expense of the maintenance of the public netitutions has increased by 80 per cent., and that of the charitable ones by 59 per cent. whilet the cash revenue received has grown by 92 per cent. The whole moreage in the husi ness of the department has been 300 per cent No wonder that two men have been found necessary to do the work of inspection

the principal of the public institutions, we may

All citizens are anyma of the difficulty of inding labour at all—fire less inhour of a remu-erative character—for the prisoners in our centy gaols. Hence the design of hava Central Prison, which, with its superior disciplinary and industrial arrangements, should meet the want mentioned, and make imprisonment, in some sense at any rate, both a punishment and an attempt at reformation. It has been built in Toronto at a total cost of \$510,282 37. This includes all the machinery, plant, and other appliances necessary to fit it for an industrial institution and all the needful provisions for the perfect security of the prisoners, combined with the neasure of freedom incidental to their employment in mechanical and other laborious occ pations. The work has all been done since the advent to power of the Mowat Administratio and the institution was opened in June, 1874. Since that time for longer or shorter sentences there have been committed to it 4,604 prisoners and at the date of the last report there were 338 incarcerated within its walls. There have been very fow escapes. The annual cost of naintenance is about \$48,000. The labour of prisoners last year represented some \$44,335. The avocations of the prisoners are chosen as to interfere as little as possible prejudicially with free labour. They have been principally the domestic and ordinary repair work of the prison itself, the manufacture of suits, boots, and shoes for the inmates of all the public institutions, the work of the Mercer Reforma tory beside it, and the manufacture of prooms and brushes, pails, tabs, churns and hollow woodenware. It is speedily becoming self-supporting, has relieved the counties of great crouble and expense, and by its superior industrial and disciplinary arrangements has had : salutary effect in checking the progress of

But for the Convent Polices, na locall or her h of Provincial care for the vicious, must be

(b) The Ross' Reformatory at Penetanavishen All walls have been taken down, and the dis cipline has been made of a completely reformatory rather than of a punitive character work, with necessary drill and recreation, rather than stone walls and iron gratings, have been depended upon. The result upon the been of the most successful and salutary character. The number of boys received since drainage works already mentioned have been Confederation has been 840, and the number at the Reformatory in 1881 was 250. The annua cost for maintenance is about 835,000, and the amount spent on it since Confederation in improving and enlarging the building has been

> Leaving the administration of establishments for the care of the vicious, we may pass on to those kept up for the care of the afflicted, and

(c) The Lunatic Asylums,

At Confederation, as we have said, there was but the Lunatic Asylum at Toronto. During the first four years thereafter it was enlarged and the one at London built. Since the advent of the present Administ ation both have been greatly enlarged, a new one at Hamilton erected, the Rockwood one at Kingston purchased from the Dominion refitted and enlarged, and the Asylum for Idiots at Orillia opened. On these works, for building alone, since Confederation has been spent \$1,377,990. The development of accommodation and the maintenance and management of the unfortunate inmates on the best and latest curative humane, and sanitary principles have con stantly been aimed at and, with unanimous tion. The annual amount spent on those five asylums is about \$522,970, and the average cost of each patient is \$135. The total number of inmates last year was 2,650. Of these, 414 were paying patients, from whom was received \$41,066, leaving the actual cost to the Province of these humane institutions as \$281,905. The utmost diligence has been used in making all pay that can, and four times as much is received now as was got a few years ago. Did the Province not maintain these unfortunates the municipalities or private individuals would be obliged to do so. The relief, therefore given by the Province in this way is about \$320,000 per annum. But when we consider further the skill and latest appliances used in curing as many as possible, the incal culable value of those institutions becomes all the more apparent. And we must not forget to mention the Asylum at Orillia for the caring. and if possible curing, of idiots. The number there last year was 156. The amount spent annually in maintaining it is about \$20,000. Few, if any, States in the world have shown such a national anxiety for the care of the afflicted and unfortunate as has Ontario. And few, if any, Administrations have met and overcome the difficulties incidental to the management of such institutions so promptly and successfully as the present. We have but to read of the heartless, pareless, and seandalons