

Mr. CHARLTON. Do you say it has ?

Mr. IVES. They have been selling securities.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Has it any debts ?

Mr. BAIN (Wentworth). Yesterday there was an election in North Brant to fill a vacancy, and so low had the political strength of the party with which the hon. gentleman is allied sunk, that they did not put a man in the field to contest the election, and allowed a supporter of Sir Oliver Mowat to be elected by acclamation.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think I may rise and say that that answer is not only disingenuous, but very unfair.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman gave way.

Mr. SPEAKER. The dignity of Parliament is not preserved by these interruptions.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I trust the same ruling will be applied—

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. BAIN (Wentworth). The Secretary of State must admit that I am not guilty of interrupting hon. members across the floor of the House. What are the facts with respect to provincial debts—how does it tally with the political record of Ontario for the last 22 years ? Sir Oliver Mowat has been Premier and administered the affairs of the province for 22 years. What is the strength of the Conservative party in that province to-day compared with the strength in its early history ? Take the last session of the legislature, and on two occasions they succeeded on mustering, on a party vote, 23 and 25 respectively, out of a division list of 62 and 66 against them.

Mr. IVES. Let me ask the hon. gentleman : Did the proportion represent the popular vote of Ontario ? How about the gerrymander ?

Mr. BAIN (Wentworth). I shall have a word to say about the gerrymander, if the hon. member for Texas will wait till a little later.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order, order.

Mr. BAIN (Wentworth). Has any one ever seen the Premier of Ontario go to London to borrow a dollar ? Has there ever been a prospectus of the province of Ontario presented on the markets of the world to borrow money, as the Finance Minister of this Dominion has been doing at intervals of two years in succession lately ?—and he will have to go there again before two years are over. That is the best answer. There is no province in the world of this broad Dominion that can present so fair a record

in that respect as the province of Ontario. Let me present to hon. gentlemen opposite two short extracts from the two last budget speeches made by the Provincial Treasurer of Ontario. I presume, that no gentleman here will deny that the Provincial Treasurer knows about the affairs of that province, probably quite as well as the Controller of Customs here or the member for King's, P.E.I. (Mr. Macdonald). The Hon. Mr. Harcourt says in his budget speech of 1894 :

Since confederation up to the close of 1893, our total grants to railways amount to \$5,959,000. The present value of our annuities outstanding is \$1,319,775, and at this very hour we have at our credit in the banks hard cash to the amount of \$1,550,000.

That is the province that these gentlemen tell us is in debt.

Mr. INGRAM. How did they get it ?

Mr. BAIN (Wentworth). They did not get it by going over to England and borrowing money as the Finance Minister whom my hon. friends support has been in the habit of doing, at intervals of every two years. Here is a quotation from the budget speech of the Provincial Treasurer of Ontario, delivered on the 28th February, this year, and I will read it for the benefit of hon. gentlemen opposite :

All told, deducting present liabilities from our schedule of assets, we had at the end of last year a comfortable surplus of \$5,269,000.

That is the record of the province of Ontario. That is the record of twenty-two years of Liberal Administration under Sir Oliver Mowat ; and where to-day is the political party that opposed him in that province ? I have not a word of disrespect to say to my Conservative friends in Ontario, but I point to this : That after a prolonged siege, advancing the interests of that party, their last leader—and he was a gentleman of irreproachable personal character, and a first-class lawyer—retired on the Bench. He was succeeded by another gentleman at the last session of Parliament which met in February last, and I see it stated in the papers of the day that that gentleman is now anxious to be relieved from the cares of this little fragment of a political party up in the province of Ontario. Is not that the best evidence that the people of Ontario are satisfied that the Administration of Sir Oliver Mowat and his Liberal friends has been in the interest of the province ?

Just about the time we assembled for the opening of Parliament, there was an election in the county of Haldimand. There was a revolt in the Orange order in Canada of which the Controller of Customs is the Grand Master. There was some trouble in the family because there was a section who were in open revolt and put a candidate in the field against