

## FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

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### CIRCUMSTANCES ALTER CASES.

In his programme of June, 1886, Mr. Mercier advocated immediate and energetic practical steps to improve the financial situation of the Province, so as to *prevent direct taxation*.

In the Speech from the Throne of 1887, it was announced that *the Government had not had time to develop a suitable project for providing the means necessary for the requirements of the situation, and there remained no other resource than to make a loan sufficient to pay all that was justly due.*

Mr. Mercier therefore sought and obtained from the Legislature authorization to borrow three and a half millions of dollars (\$3,500,000), payable in thirty or forty years.

How different was this administrative action upon his part from the declarations that he was continually making, *when not clothed in the responsibilities of office*, will be seen when it is remembered that, during the session of 1885, he proposed, seconded by his present Treasurer, Mr. Shehyn, the great financial authority of the Liberal party,

*"That this House is ready to vote the necessary supplies to Her Majesty, but regrets that the Government has not fulfilled its promises by carefully preparing and submitting to the House, at the beginning of the session, practical and sufficient measures to put a stop to the annual deficits which are so seriously augmenting the embarrassments of our financial situation, that the business men of the Province and the taxpayers view with alarm the Government's policy of expedients and of loans, which do not offer any remedy for the present condition of affairs, and allows them, with culpable negligence, to continue and become more aggravated."*

Where, it may be asked, is Mr. Mercier's consistency? In the Speech from the Throne it was distinctly declared that the Gov-