

\$196,437.34; the increase being mainly on account of construction of the Buildings mentioned.

In consideration of the very highly satisfactory showing of these comparative statements, what are we to think of the men who accomplished such results?

I feel free to express my opinion in this matter, as I claim no credit for myself, not having been a member of the Government at the time when these financial reforms were inaugurated. These men have been charged by a prominent organ of this city as unscrupulous, unprincipled boodlers, who were ready to sacrifice all or any public interest in order to promote their own personal aggrandisement.

Here, in the statements I have laid before you we have the record of their work! Does it bear out such a construction?

On the contrary, do not these statements give the clearest evidence that the affairs of this Province are in the hands of shrewd business men who have been quick to discern and prompt to correct errors in administration; men who have been true to their pledges and promises; possessing the ability and determination to redeem those pledges; strictly economical in all expenditures; men whose motive and highest aim has been to advance the interests of the country, the welfare of the people, and place the Province of Manitoba on record as the most desirable point for intending settlers?

And I feel satisfied that when the evidence now placed before this House is laid before the country, that the electorate of the Province of Manitoba will give their emphatic endorsement to the policy and practice which this Government has pursued.

It will be seen that the largest item of expenditure was made on account of railway aid to the N. P. & M. R. Co., and in regard to this I desire to offer some statements to show that this expenditure was a profitable one for the Province, and more especially as one or two members of the Opposition have on several occasions during the session, in referring to this matter, asserted that the advent of the N. P. & M. R. has not had the effect of reducing rates nor of affording any railway competition in the Province.

The Hon. member for Cypress, in referring to this matter a day or two ago, stated that the maximum rate on grain guaranteed by the N. P. & M. R. was of no value to the