Huron Signal.

"The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

VOL. XXXII. NO. 3. GODERICH, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29, 1879. WHOLE NO 1667

The Huron Signal,

(ESTABLISHED 1848.)

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TERMS—$1.00 per annum strictly in advance; $1.25 if paid within three months; $1.50 if paid within nine months, and over that time $2.00. No paper stopped till all arrears are paid, except at the option of the publisher.

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which he will sell very

Cheap for Cash.

Parties wishing anything in the furniture line would do well to call and see his stock before purchasing elsewhere.

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Have removed across the street to the store next door to W. Acheson's Harness shop, where will be found

A GOOD ASSORTMENT!

of Kitchen, Bedroom, Diningroom, and Parlor Furniture such

TABLES, CHAIRS, (hair cane and wood seated) CUPBOARDS, BEDSTEADS, WASH STANDS, MATTRESSES, LOUNGES, SOFAS

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N.B.—C. B. & Bro. are prepared to sell everything in their line

Cheap for Cash.

N. B.—A complete assortment of Coffins and Shroud always on hand and a Hearse to hire; all on reasonable terms

A CALL SOLICITED.

Goderich, Aug. 15, 1878

WEST HURON.

COL. A. M. ROSS' SPEECH

IN THE

ONTARIO HOUSE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

MR. ROSS said he would be as brief as possible in the remarks he intended to make on the Address. There was only two or three of the subjects therein referred to that he would touch upon. We are congratulated upon the successful exhibit made by our Educational Department at the late World's Exposition at Paris, and on the flattering encomiums passed upon it by educationalists of other countries. The people of Ontario justly feel proud at the prominent praise and honor given to them, and they are entitled to some degree of self-gratulation. We have made much progress in educational matters. We have adopted and established a system of thoroughly free, and efficient instruction in our Common Schools, and our liberality in the cause of higher education has in late years been extended with no niggard hand. For that progress, and that standard of excellence, he held no individual could claim the credit. That progress has been due to the great interest our people take in the cause of education, and because they have in their own hands to a large extent, the direct management of their public schools. The more thorough that control is, and the more directly the will, and wishes of the people, are brought to bear upon our school system; the more practically efficient will it become, and the more firmly will the determination to advance, and to occupy the first place amongst those nations distinguished for liberality and excellence in this department, take deep root in our people. It will not do, however, to coerce the people, or endeavour to force them too fast in this direction, or make the system too costly or cumbrous. If we do we will raise a spirit of opposition which will retard instead of advance the cause of education. The feeling has of late years been growing, that sufficient freedom of action is not given to our local trustees, and that the local taxation for schools is more burdensome than it need be, with a regard to practical efficiency. He believed the change that was made two years ago, in constituting the head of our Educational Department a Minister of the Crown directly responsible to the people, and by reason of his position in the House brought immediately in contact with the popular will through the people's representatives—was concurred in the more cheerfully, that it was thought it would lessen that somewhat arbitrary dictation from the former irresponsible central authority, which was becoming galling to the local authorities. Some modification in that direction has taken place. The former arbitrary provisions in respect to the compulsory employment of second teachers where there were over fifty children on the roll, and the somewhat onerous regulations as to increased school accommodation have been largely modified by the present Minister, but the public sentiment in the rural parts is that there is room for improvement still.

In regard to the settlement of the northern and western boundaries of the Province, the Government were justified in congratulating the House on the satisfactory settlement arrived at. No time had been lost in pushing this important matter to a speedy conclusion, and a conclusion had been arrived at which would be satisfactory to the people of this Province. While appropriating to the Sandfield McDonald Government all—and perhaps more than all—the share of the credit that was due to it for the settlement of the financial dispute between Ontario and Quebec. The Opposition had been very chary in their allusions to this boundary question. They did not seem to join heartily in the congratulations that a satisfactory settlement had been arrived at so speedily, evidently because their solemn predictions of failure of last session, had not been verified. They then took strong exception to the manner in which the Government sought to arrive at a settlement by arbitration, as a source of peril to to the Province, and predicted failure through this course, and extended litigation. Their doleful prophecies had not been fulfilled. The result showed the wisdom of the Government in proceeding by arbitration—and not by asserting our claims through the courts as desired by the Opposition—as we had secured by that means, in an inexpensive and expeditious manner, all that we could reasonably expect, and all that the other side of the House considered we were entitled to. We had extended our boundaries westward to the northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods, with which the Hon. Wm. McDougall said he would be perfectly satisfied. It was fortunate that Hon. gentlemen on that side of the House had not the management of that matter, or we would have been committed to a tedious and expensive contention before the Privy Council, which would most likely have left us worse off than we were at present. We had acquired by this award a territory as large again as we formerly possessed, a territory rich in minerals, rich he was told in agricultural land, possessing also the finest forests of timber now on the American continent—and by the Hudson's Bay, a prospect of opening up a shorter route to the seaboard and European markets than by Quebec and the St. Lawrence. The country and the Government are indeed to be congratulated on the result.

He trusted that the measure promised in connection the Voters' List Act will be in the direction of simplifying and rendering less expensive the revision of the voters' lists. The municipalities complain that the present provisions entail considerable expense on the municipality, and he was sure most Hon. gentlemen would agree that it is rather onerous on the representatives. It is important that the list should be correct, but if any saving can be effected in the expense, it will be a move in the right direction. One change was asked, viz.: that the remuneration of the Township officers in connection with appeals before the Judges should be left to the municipalities.

(MR. HARDY) The Finality Act of last session had made that change.

MR. ROSS. He was not aware that such was the case, if so the Judges, he thought, had not acted upon it.

He was pleased to see that the Government proposed to amend the Jury Act, to simplify and render it less costly and burdensome than at present. He trusted it would be no half measure. In saying this, he did not wish it to be understood that he desired to go so far as some, and abolish trial by jury altogether. He believed it was a valuable and efficient safeguard and in many cases an indespensible part of the impartial administration of justice. It was a matter however that should not be frequently meddled with, and therefore it was the more necessary that when a change does take place, it should remove all those features which experience has shown to be objectionable. One of the important things to be kept in view, was to guard within reasonable limits of expense—against the chance of packing a jury, in times when some strong motive existed—it might be political or religious—to influence those charged with the selection or ballot.

Another important thing is to secure as far as possible—that those chosen shall be as well qualified as the circumstances will permit to discharge the important duties of a juryman. With 12 in view he hoped the second selection system the present law would be abolished, as there was one of the weakest spots in the present system. He had been a member of the second selecting board for twenty years, and knew that it was a useless, expensive, and dangerous encumbrance (Hear! Hear!). He had had the honor on several occasions to bring the subject of jury reform before the House. He thought that the return he had moved for some two years ago—and which had been presented to the House—had opened the eyes of the members and the Government to the enormous expense which our present system entailed upon the country, and the necessity for a change.

He was pleased to see also that it was proposed to appropriate a further sum for Drainage works. He was given to understand that there was a larger number of applications for works of this character—open drains—than the incoming payments of sinking fund and interest from former appropriations—which is all that is now available for this purpose—will meet, and that municipalities that had passed by-laws for drainage works, have been obliged to wait long periods before their wants could be supplied. He was not aware what applications had been received by the Government for loans for tile drainage under the act of last session. In the County of Huron and neighboring counties he had not heard of any. This he thought was partly owing to the partial failure of the grain crop of last year, and the low prices obtainable, which had not left our farmers in a position to make outlays of this kind. He was of the opinion also, that the scope of that measure might be enlarged to permit of the borrowing of the money for other than tile drains. In many parts of the country it was difficult and costly to get tiles, and many experienced farmers — upon whose judgment he could rely—stated that drains constructed of hemlock or cedar, would last twenty years, and were as efficient as tile. He was satisfied if the act was made to include wood or stone drains, it would be much more generally availed of with regard to the expenditures of the Province, he was willing to admit, that there had been an increase of expenditure, With a large and flourishing Province—increasing in population—attaching to itself new territories, opening up its waste places—pushing into its outlaying districts its colonization roads and its railways, and planting along them new and thrifty settlements—which are rapidly forming and consolidating themselves into independent municipalities it was a matter of necessity, that there must be an increase of expenditure. The true question was, had that increase of expenditure been justifiable! Had there been any culpable extravagance? Hon gentlemen—totally at a loss for an election cry, or what charges to fulminate against the present administration — have seized with avidity the pamphlet of the Hon. Senator from Sangeen—prepared for the purpose—and hurled it as their indictment against the Government. In their jubilation over this pamphlet and their endorsement of its charges of gross extravagance were they not virtually condemning themselves as unfit to fill the positions they occupy? One of the most important of the duties of an opposition was to scrutinize with the utmost care, all the items of expenditure, and the estimates yearly submitted to them. If these extraordinary extravagances charged by the Senator, are a new discovery, Hon gentlemen opposite must have been sadly deficient in their duty, in not challenging these when they were submitted in the estimates. The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works had in his speech the other night clearly shown, in how few instances the Opposition had placed on record their objections to the items submitted, and how insignificant in amount. The Hon. Senator came before the country professing to be a thoroughly impartial critic, free from partizanship, without any desire to make political capital, but solely with a pure and patriotic anxiety for the welfare of the country, yet he ventured to say, no man could read his pamphlet without coming to the conclusion that he was one of the strongest, most bitter, and most uncompromising partisans that had ever come before the public (cheers) There was no baser character in the whole round of humanity than that of a hypocrite—(hear, hear)—whether a religious or a political hypocrite, and such a character deserved the utmost condemnation. It was in that character that the hon. Senator came before the country. Nothing that he had seen in Canadian political controversy had shown such a strong party bias as this pamphlet and the one which was issued prior to the late Dominion elections. It was strange that the *non partisan* Senator's fits of patriotism, came on just before our general elections. An impartial critic should not base conclusions on matters of doubt, but on matters of positive knowledge; and yet every page of this document bristled with insinuations of wrong-doing that the writer was not bold enough to charge openly and broadly. (Cheers.) When the Senator did not know anything about what he was dealing with, he insinuated. It was claimed that the figures in the Senator's tables were strictly correct, With a few exceptions the actual figures perhaps were so. His charge against the Senator was that he had made an improper use of them, and the conclusions he had drawn either showed utter ignorance of the subject he was dealing with, or a deliberate attempt to deceive. he had not had an opportunity of thoroughly examining these tables. He had only received a copy of them within the last three days, and had not had time to go exhaustively into them, but he thought he would be able to point out to the House to night in a review of one of them, the utter unreliability of the Hon. gentleman as a financial critic, and the unfounded nature of the charges of extravagance he had made against the Administration. He would first refer to the table dealing with the educational expenditure, as to which the Hon. Senator said that "between 1871 and 1877 it was increased by the *appalling* sum of $200,000," and the whole gravamen of the Senator's charge with regard to that matter was that there had been culpable extravagance. The first item he would draw their attention to was that of Normal and Model Schools, for which the expenditure was given in 1871 of $17,788, and in 1877, $39,922, an increase of $22,000. (He would give the amounts in even hundreds.) That increase could be easily accounted for. Surely the Hon. Senator was aware that we had erected in that period, an additional Normal school. That the expenditure of 1871 was for one school, that of 1877 for two. Would anyone say that the additional Normal School at Ottawa, the chief cause of that increase, was not required by the country? And did not the present leader of the Opposition urge upon the Government to erect another Normal School in the city in which he represented? (Hear, hear.) Had the Government acceded to that request, we should have had Senator Macpherson and the Opposition after him raising the cry about this further increased expenditure which would have been occasioned. (Hear, hear.) Another item was that of Inspection, for which the increase was from $14,527 in 1871, to $36,644 in 1877, or $22,000. Now who was it that was responsible for that increase? Who was it but the Government of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald that changed the mode of inspection. (Hear, hear.) The present mode of inspection had been the subject of attack by the Opposition as being unjustifiable and expensive. Before the Sandfield Macdonald Government left office they passed the act that did away with the old superintendents and appointed county inspectors. (Hear, hear.) If the present mode of inspection is expensive, the present Government is not responsible for it. It was left them as a legacy by their predecessors. Hear how the Senator emphasizes the increase in this item as one of his most serious charges against the present Government. He says: "The inspection of schools should be very thorough and much improved if its cost be any criterion to its efficiency. In 1871 it cost $14,527 and in 1877 it cost $36,644, being an increase of 150 *per cent*." These items show how misleading mere tables of figures are if unaccompanied with *truthful* explanations. Did the Hon. Senator not trade upon the knowledge, that the great bulk of the electors have not access to the Public Accounts, and are not able nor have they the leisure to examine for themselves these figures and fix the responsibility for the increases? He was aware of this and the hon. Senator's conduct in making these broad statements without publishing the particulars was all the more reprehensible. (Hear, hear.) The next item was "Training of teachers, $6,500," which represented the cost of the establishment of county model schools, one of the most valuable and successful institutions that had been established—and at a very trifling expense. The Hon. gentleman does not seem to be aware of their establishment, for he makes the exclamation "Training of Teachers!" "I fancied our Normal Schools were for the educating and training of teachers!" He does not seem to be aware that these County Model schools were established as nurseries to our Normal Schools, and have admirably answered the purpose for which they were intended.

The next item he would draw their attention to was under the head "Common and Separate Schools" in which the largest increase in the table existed, viz.: $67,000. In 1871 the amount distributed was $172,985, and 1877 $240,044. Now what was this increase? but a returning to the people, in the shape of increased grants to their schools of the taxes which had been collected from them. Every additional dollar that the Government gave lessened the burden of their municipal taxation for the support of their schools. Was that a corrupt or extravagant expenditure. He believed the people would not think so, and would prefer seeing an increase rather than a diminution of expenditure in that respect. In "Poor Schools" there was an increase of $6000, and in grants to Grammar and High School also an increase of $6000! Did anyone condemn these? While we were opening up our new territory so extensively it was a necessity that we should be liberal in our aid to assist those struggling communities, to establish their schools, and special grants to these were classed under the head of "Poor Schools." The additional aid to High Schools was also a lessening of the taxation of the municipalities, in which these Schools were established. Another item in this table was, Libraries Maps and Prizes," in which these were an increase of $25,000. The amounts being in 1871 $34,905 and in 1877 $59,995. This increase showed that a larger demand had been made of late years by our rural School corporations for library and prize books, an increase, not to be deprecated, but by every possible means encouraged.

He must go back in the table, and draw their attention to the item "Superannuation of Teachers." Under this head the expenditure had been in 1871 $6,143, and in 1867 $35,484, showing an increase of $29,300. It was natural that for some years after the establishment of this Superannuation Fund, an increase would take place, as our teachers became old in the service and unfit for duty. But who was responsible for this increase? Was it the present Government? Not at all. The statutes under which these superannuations took place were passed by the Sandfield McDonald Government. Under that law we are still acting. (Hear hear.) He did not object to the expenditure for this purpose. He did not believe anybody in the Country did, but he did object to the Hon. Senator should endeavor to saddle the present government with the increase of expenditure under this head, for which his own friends on the other side of the House are wholly responsible. The aggregate of these increases he had referred to amounted in round numbers to $184,000, for which either the Sandfield McDonald Government were clearly and solely responsible, or were in the shape of a distribution to the people of the country of a part of our surplus revenue and thereby directly lessening their burdens of local taxation. Deducting that amount from $550,000, the total expenditure for education in 1877, $366,000 would remain as the expenditure of the present Government in contrast to $351,000 under the Sandfield Macdonald Government—(cheers)—a paltry increase of some $15,000. But they should not have the credit of even that increase, because he would call attention to an item which the Hon. Senator had entirely overlooked. We derived a revenue from our school system in the shape of fees from Model School pupils, sale of books, &c. In 1871 the receipts from these sources he found in the public accounts—where the Honorable Senator could have seen them—were $35,450. While in 1877 they were $57,805, an increase—closely connected with, and caused chiefly by the increased expenditure of $22,355. (Hear hear.) If that amount were deducted from the total expenditure for 1877, it would leave the actual total expenditure at $344,000, or less by $7,000 than that of the Sandfield Macdonald Government in 1871. (Cheers.) Senator Macpherson did not take into account these facts, and consequently declared that between 1871 and 1877 the expenditure for education had increased by the *appelling* sum of $200,000." The Hon. Senator draws a distinction between what are grants to Schools, and what is cost of administration. And under the latter he classes all the expenditure except the actual amounts paid in grants to Common and High Schools. Now nothing could more clearly show the Hon. Senator's utter trustworthiness, and his desire to deceive his readers who are not in a position to check his work with the Public accounts, than the extract he would now read from his pamphlet. He says: "The amount distributed among schools in 1877 was increased to $329,243, and the cost of administration was increased to $155,524. In other words the grant to Schools in 1877 exceeded that of 1871 by the sum of $78,781 and the cost of administration in 1877 exceeded that of 1871 by some $99,845, being $17,064 more than the increased amount of the grant to Schools." Now in this $95,845 of increase of what he calls the cost of administration and for which he wishes to excite the horror of his readers for Mr. Mowat's extravagance, he includes, not only the increase of $22,000 for the additional Normal School, not only the increase of $22,000 for inspection, and $29,000 for Superannuated Teachers, for which his own leaders and party are solely responsible, but he actually includes also the increase of $25,000 for Libraries, Maps and Prizes which are not matters of administration at all, but are as much grants to Schools as the money paid over to the treasurers. These facts showed that the Hon. Senator's tables were utterly unreliable, and by giving them in such a way that they conveyed a false impression to the people, who were not in a position to investigate them for themselves, Mr. Macpherson professing to be impartial, was either grossly ignorant of the subject he was dealing with, or was guilty of hypocrisy of the smallest and meanest kind. (Cheers.)

He would now refer to the next table, that regarding expenditure connected with Crown Lands and Colonization Roads. The whole increase under this table, was made up of two items. Surveys and Colonization Roads. In the former there was an increase from $17,902 in 1871, to $45,541 in 1877, or $27,609. Was there an unnecessary or unwise expenditure, or did it evince any culpable extravagance?

The Province was acquiring immense territory, and were we going to leave it undeveloped? Or should we not survey it and open it up for settlement? Then there was a larger expenditure for colonization roads, which was actually a distribution of the surplus—(hear, hear)—and just in the direction which Hon. gentlemen on that side of the House were urging the Government to further expenditure. The increase under this head was from $55,409 in 1871 to $77,300 in 1877, or $22,000, showing that the increase on these two items referred to, of $49,600. Deducting that sum from the total given in 1877, it leaves $122,694, or $2100, less than Sanfield's last year—1871. (Hear, hear.) And he wished to call the attention of the House to the fact, that the remaining items in the table in which this *decrease* had taken place, viz.: agents' salaries, travelling expenses, commissions, inspections, &c., were just that class of expenditure in which economy might be shown. And now he wished to draw the attention of the House to those little dodges that illustrated so aptly the character of the Hon. Senator's *impartiality*. Feeling that the increase in this table could be explained so easily and satisfactorily as to turn the argument against himself, he carries forward and reproduces here, the expenses of the Department at Toronto which he had before given, and made full use of in his table, under the head of Civil Government, and as an apology tacked a foot-note at the bottom, explaining that these were added to the cost of Civil Government, but were reproduced here to show the total expenditure—and, he might have added, for the purpose of more readily deceiving and making the table show better.—(Hear, hear.) The next table that he would direct their attention to was that of "Administration of Justice." With some of the items in that table he did not propose to deal. They could be better reviewed by some of the legal gentlemen in the House. The increase under the head of "Criminal Prosecutions" the Provincial Secretary had already referred to, and explained to be in consequence of the increase in the number of criminals to be tried for which the Government could not be held responsible. But he wished to call to their notice the fact that the largest part of the increase complained of was in the amount paid over to the municipalities, through their treasurers, to reimburse the municipalities for payments made by them, and the more that were turned to them in this way, the less had they to raise by local taxation. It was an expenditure which the Government were powerless to control, being entirely regulated by the magisterial and municipal officers in the various counties. This expenditure had been largely increased of late years—the increase between 1871 and 1877 being $47,400—in consequence of the hard times through which we were passing, and the statement read by the Provincial Secretary showed that there was not a county or city in which the cost of Administration of Justice had not materially increased. The Government were not to be blame for this, and any enforced economy under this head would be merely shifting the burden from the Provincial Treasury and throwing it upon the municipalities. He felt justified in saying that the records of the Provincial Treasurer's office would show, that there was not a county in the Province but had made remonstrances against what they conceived to be the too great deductions made from their accounts by the Provincial Treasurer.

Hon. gentlemen will see the Senator puts in the table in the column for 1877 a lump sum of $56,677, the details of which he leads you to understand were not to be found in the Public Accounts, because he says "the amount is supposed to include the items which should be detailed in the spaces marked with an asterick." Now every item of detail which he has given for other years, could be found in the abstract of Receipts and Expenditure for 1877 from which he took his other figures.

MR. LAUDER. The Hon. gentleman is mistaken, these details are not given for 1877, there is only the lump sum.

MR. ROSS. He begged to correct the Hon. member. The details were given in the statement for 1877.

MR. LAUDER. Where?

MR. ROSS. Well the Hon. member seems to be as ignorant of what is in the Public Accounts as the Senator himself. If he will turn to statement no 5 page 29 he will find in this comparative statement of the Estimates with the expenditure, all the details which the Hon. Senator has omitted He will find "Deputy Clerks of the Crown and Peas" $15,950. He will find Administration of Justice in Algoma &c given as $19,502, an increase over 1871 of $9000, and here perhaps is one of the reasons why these details were omitted. This item shows the largest increase of any in the omitted details, and the explanation is so simple that if the details were given the statement would bear its own refutation. These new Districts of Algoma, Thunder Bay, Nipissing, Parry Sound, and Muskoka have only of late years sprung into existence, and the rapid influx of population has made it a necessity which no Government could ignore, to provide ample means for the due administration of Justice within their limits. Then another of these omitted items found here is, "Short hand Reporters for the Assize Courts" which is given in 1877 as $6,145, a measure designed for, and which has had the effect of relieving proportionately the taxation of municipalities for juries. Shortening as it does the attendance of the jurors at the Courts. Then there was another sum which the Hon Senator had erroneously included in this statement apparently to give him the opportunity of making the misleading declaration, "That the expenditure for the administration of Justice was increased between 1871 and 1877 by the enormous *annual* sum of $141,264. He referred to the item for the Revision and Consolidation of the Statutes $44,174. Now this was not an *annual* expenditure properly brought into such a comparison. No revision of the Statutes had occurred for nearly twenty years before, nor might another be required for twenty years to come. Deducting these three items that he had specified—and he had no doubt that there were others to which good exception could be taken, he showed that the total expenditure under the present Government had been $217,000 as against $182,000 in 1871."

Now with regard to the surplus. The whole tenor and drift of the Opposition argument, both inside of this House and out of it had been that the surplus accumulated by the Sandfield Macdonald Government, had been dissipated and wasted by the present Administration. They had also persistently endeavored to create a wrong impression as to the cause of that Government. They had represented that the Reform party had attacked Mr. Macdonald's Government for its extravagance, and had come into power upon a promise of economy and retrenchment. That was not the issue. Sandfield Macdonald's Government was rather objected to, because it was too penurious and that in his desire for economy the public service suffered The real issue was that they usurped, as an Executive, the powers and privileges, and the legislative functions of this House.

And here he would take occasion to say that the present Opposition seemed desirous to ride into power on the record and character of the Sandfield McDonald Government, a Government not one of whose members had now a seat in this Chamber, or were likely to have in the next Parliament. That Government was presided over by a life long Reformer, who held the reins of power himself, and continually boasted that he had made good reformers of all his colleagues.

He would now make a comparison of the surplus as left by Sandfield, with what it is now, both with and without the liabilities and Dominion Trust Funds. In 1871 there was

Investments in Dominion Stock and Debentures.	$2,747,805.
Bank Deposits.	890,174.
Total	$3,637,979

In 1877, Dominion Stock and Debentures as before, $2,747,805; Bank Deposits, $606,572; Drainage Debentures and rent charges, $520,277. Total, $3,874,654, or $236,675 more than in 1871. That is the comparison without taking into account either the Liabilities or Trust Funds. Now including both these the following is the relative amount: 1871, Investments and deposits as before, $3,637,979. Dominion Trust Funds consisting of Upper Canada Grammar School Fund, $312,769. Upper Canada Building Fund, $1,472,391, Common School Fund, $914,246. Ontario Share of Library, $105,541. Making the total assets $6,442,928. Less liabilities as follows: Railway Fund set apart by Act of 1871, $1,500,000. Quebec Share of Common School Fund as in 1871, $135,744, or a total surplus of $4,807,183.

Now for 1877 including the same Dominion Funds and deducting liabilities.

Dominion Stocks and Bonds as given in Hon. Mr. Wood's Budget speech of last session	$2,945,000
Drainage Debentures	520,277
Bank Deposits	562,897
Dominion Trust Funds as before	2,699,407
Share of Library	105,541
Municipal Loan Fund debts due	154,385
	$6,987,507
Less Liabilities as follows:	
Advance on account of Debentures proposed to be sold	$725,133
Bal. of Railway aid Fund not disbursed	400,162
Bal. Railway Subsidy Fund	147,319
Bal. of Railway Grants 39 Vic.	393,308
Bal. of Surplus Distribution	202,234
Quebec's share of Common Sch. Fund	270,052
Due for Rockwood Asylum	96,500
	2,234,708
	$4,752,799

Or within a paltry $53,000 of the amount it stood in Sandfield McDonald's time, and that notwithstanding that over $5,000,000 had been given in aid of Railways and distributed to the people by the present Administration.—Hon. gentlemen will see that I have deducted from the assets in 1871.—The Railway Fund, and Quebec's share of the Common School Fund collected and in our hands up to that time. This I hold I am perfectly justified in doing as in all late statements by our present and former Treasurer, all balances unexpended of Railway appropriations are included as liabilities. So also with Quebec's share of the School Fund. If we deduct what we are due to Quebec now from our present assets, we—to make the comparison fair—must deduct what we were due in 1871 also.

He desired now for a few moments to refer to the amendment to the amendment now more immediately before the House. He could not in too strong terms regret that the leadership of his Hon. friend from London—whom he had always heretofore considered as an honest and fair opponent—should be stained on the very threshold by so discreditable a motion as he has placed in the hands of the Member for South Simcoe. His Hon friend the Commissioner of Public Works had aptly described this proceeding as raising the black flag and the question had been raised who was the first to hoist it. He would ask permission of the House to read to them, from the Mail of July 10th 1876 an article copied from the London Herald—one of the organs of the now Leader of the Opposition, copied approvingly in the leading organ without one word of correction, for the purpose of giving this tissue of falsehoods the benefit of its wider circulation and for the purpose of creating the impression that the Opposition had resisted the increase in the indemnity and Ministers salaries, and, too, slumped before the country the speeches of Hon gentlemen and their Leaders—approving of the increases and agreeing to bear their share of the responsibility—and out of this House. (Hear, hear.) He read the article which accused the Government of increasing the indemnity and salaries against the strenuous protest of the Opposition. Mentioned that a number of Ministerial supporters whom Mr. Mowat depended on to carry the iniquitous proposition, amongst them his own and declaring the country would hold the government alone responsible. Hon Gentlemen well know that not one word of that article was true. Had there been one word said in repudiation of it by gentlemen opposite?

MR. MEREDITH—Yes.

MR. ROSS.—He had no recollection of any denial. Had either the London or Toronto organ ever published one word in contradiction of the slanderous statements they had given circulation to? That had been the first hoisting of the black flag. That article had been the text upon which a local paper in his county had made a bitter attack upon him. Stating that he was one of those upon whom the Government could depend to support the increase and laying the whole blame upon the Government, who had acted against the protest of the Opposition. For himself, he had refused to sign the round robin and as was well known to members when the matter was first brought up in secret session, he was one of only two who had raised his voice against it. He knew that for the action he took then on this question he had been looked coldly upon by some of the members, who though they felt and spoke boldly upon it then, desired to take a political advantage of it now. He admitted he had remained silent when the estimates with this item passed. Had he actively opposed it then with seven eighths of the House committed to it, he would have laid himself open to the charge of seeking to gain a little cheap popularity. For that silence he was responsible, and was willing to accept his full share of the responsibility. When the proper time came. When the estimates were submitted, he would