

thing, or that any advances in the tariff would be a good thing; they therefore declined to favor any advance; and the elections went against them. It has since been commonly thought and said that, if they had consented to a comparatively small increase in the tariff, the Reformers who left them at the election of 1878 would have been content, and would have supported them as before. But the Government preferred defeat to a policy which, according to their view of truth and righteousness, they could not honestly adopt.

Then, as for the Reform party in Provincial affairs, its record has been so satisfactory to Reformers and others that, at every general election during the eighteen years which have elapsed since Mr. Blake took office as the first Ontario Reform Premier, a decided majority of the Government candidates have been returned by the people. When no election is near you hear even Conservatives, fair-minded and intelligent Conservatives, frankly admitting that they have nothing to say against the Ontario Government; and a sprinkling of them almost everywhere have always voted for our candidates. Outside of Ontario, and in all the Provinces of the Dominion, it is well known that Ontario has long been regarded as the model Province in regard both to legislation and to the administration of public affairs. Conservative journals in the other Provinces, not being interested in our defeat, have repeatedly given expression to the same view. The latest of these is *The Richmond Guardian*, a Quebec Conservative journal. That journal lately said:—"Ontario has always been economically and wisely governed, which is more than can be said for Quebec, past or present; and we regard it as morally and patriotically bad policy to keep hounding at Mr. Mowat in the fashion common with the Federal Government partizans. Let Mowat alone and attend to your own business."

#### THE PLATFORM ADOPTED BY THE NEW PARTY

has nine planks, of which I have mentioned three. Of the remaining six, three relate to Dominion matters, not to Provincial—an Elective Senate; Manhood Suffrage (in elections to the Legislative Assembly we have Manhood Suffrage now); and "Retrenchment and Economy in public expenditure, with a view to reducing our enormous national debt." The debt certainly is enormous, and has since Confederation made fearful leaps upwards under Conservative Administrations, until in 1883 the net debt had reached no less a sum than \$234,531,358, according to Dominion Sessional Paper No. 2, 1889. Three other of the planks