

in these Provinces. Men here cannot, except in a few instances, afford to make the sacrifice of working for the public entirely at their own cost. (Hear, hear.) The community have no right to expect it. They have no right to ask their subordinate officials, or their higher officials, or their members of Parliament, to do that for the public which they will not themselves do for the public. (Cheers.) The thing to be obtained is not the smallest possible outlay of money for the article called legislation and government; it is the utmost possible result from that outlay. We want the utmost economy consistent with the utmost efficiency we can procure. We want the greatest result obtainable by the best use of all our means. What is the result we had need come at? Thoroughly good administration of the affairs of the Province, in respect of all those great interests to which I have alluded—namely, the management of our Crown Lands, the attraction of immigration, the prevention of emigration from among us, the development of our agricultural and manufacturing interests, of our law, our educational system, and so forth. It is good government and good legislation we want; and we must get that article for what it necessarily must cost. Our utmost efforts, our utmost means are not too much to give for so great a result, if only we can get it. (Cheers.) Of course I hope nobody will think me arguing in favor of extravagance. I ask only for that amount of liberality that is needed to secure the desirable result I have spoken of. Watch as closely as we will, occasionally jobbery and over-pay will be the result of our dealings with employees. But we must do what we can to guard against such evils. Above all things, keep your men sharp at work, make them work, and when you do, pay them. (Cheers.)

Now, sir, there is another matter with respect to which I have to say something, in connexion with this novelty of our present political institutions. At first sight it might almost seem that the duty of a Treasurer or Finance Minister, at the outset of the finances of the Province, must be easy enough, as he ought to have no old balances to deal with or old transactions to carry on. Unfortunately for me at this moment, such is by no means the case. In one sense our institutions are new; but in another sense, as Treasurer of the Province, in seeking to explain these first votes, I have got to go back to a great many transactions that are old; and I have to state circumstances arising out of those transactions, which make it simply impossible—and I am sure the House will see it is so—for me to say much to the House which, under other circumstances, I should be glad to say—too proud to be able to say. Every Province under our new constitution has, what I may call, its account to settle with the Dominion. The Dominion, as formed under the constitutional act, assumes to a certain extent the debts of the old constitutive Provinces. The assets of those different Provinces are distributed according to a rule, generally speaking, not hard of application; harder in reference to us than to the Maritime Provinces; but one that has to be applied before we can make even a financial start. It has to be ascertained how the different Provinces stood at the time of the Union; consequently the amount of the Dominion's liabilities as regards each and itself, and the relative financial position of each Province. This has to be done as regards every Province; but as respects the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, something more requires to be done. The present Union is not merely a binding together of Provinces, but,