

Ontario will never consent to bribe the other Provinces with her own money to secure her just rights. If any idea of opening a way to make grants to the other Provinces at our expense is at the bottom of this strange proceeding, I can only say for myself—and I think I express the sentiments of the people of Ontario—I would not accept our claim upon such conditions.

Ontario will never consent to this injustice. She has right, justice and equity in demanding that the agreement of 1882 should be carried out in good faith, and I very much misjudge the people of Ontario if they do not unanimously, irrespective of party, insist on its fulfilment.

Now, Mr. Speaker, my justification for referring to this question at such length, is that it is a serious question for Ontario. It involves a difference of nearly a million dollars to the Province. The difference according to the new accounts submitted, as they make them up on their plan of 5 per cent. simple interest, shews a loss to the Province of \$857,000 as compared with their own accounts formerly rendered.

But there is one point, Mr. Speaker, before I leave this question of the settlement of accounts which I ought to have mentioned. To assume, for the sake of argument, that the agreement of 1882 was not binding, why should the Province be required to accept only 5 per cent. simple interest? I think the law is, Mr. Speaker, that where no agreement is made, the legal rate of interest shall be allowed, which is 6 per cent. It may be said that under the British North America Act provision is made that Provinces entering Confederation with a certain amount of debt beyond what they were allowed are to be charged 5 per cent. interest upon that debt, and that other Provinces entering Confederation with less debt than they were allowed are to be credited with 5 per cent. interest, but this is a provision expressly confined to this question of excess of debt, by the terms of the Act. It has no application to accounts such as these, and surely if we are not entitled to 5 per cent. compound interest (which I claim we are, from all the circumstances laid before the House), then why should they say: "We will only allow you 5 per cent. instead of 6 per cent. simple interest?" Why, these very accounts submitted in 1888 contain a number of items charged against the Province of Ontario and the old Province of Canada with interest allowed by the Dominion