

Financial Facts as to Sums Challenged.

During 26 years of Liberal rule in Ontario, the Opposition have challenged less than three-fifths of one per cent. of all our expenditures.

Out of the total expenditure under Supply Bill in 11 years, 1881-97, the Opposition opposed only \$243,146 out of \$47,117,483, or about one-half of one per cent.

The Montreal "Witness."

The Montreal *Witness* in its review of Ontario's budget speech of Dec. 11, 1897, says: "The surplus of receipts over expenditure for the current year is estimated at \$392,916, and the surplus of Provincial assets over Provincial liabilities present payable is \$5,241,468. The Province of Ontario is to be congratulated on its splendid financial position, which has been preserved by careful, business-like, honest administration since Confederation."

The "Mail" on the Financial Administration of the Province.

On April 11th, 1890, the *Mail* said editorially:—"The Government can also *make out a good case for itself in regard to its administration of the finances.* After dealing liberally by the municipalities and exhibiting a creditable enterprise in building railways and erecting public institutions, Mr. Mowat is able to show a comfortable surplus. Instead of having a surplus of five or six millions in the treasury, Quebec has a debt of thirty millions, and, in spite of the direct taxes imposed on commercial corporations and of other revenue raising devices, a fresh loan is inevitable. It must also be admitted that Mr. Mowat has passed many progressive measures affecting the general interests of the community, and that, on the whole, his management has been clean and free from scandal. These are powerful reasons for giving him a *unc term.*"

In an editorial on Feb. 13, 1890, it also said:—"The Ontario Government's management of the finances has been *thrifty, judicious and clean.*"

The Toronto "Telegram."

The Toronto *Telegram*, which strives to be independent, but which always has a strong leaning to the Conservative side, and whose proprietor is the Conservative representative of one of the constituencies of Toronto in the Dominion Parliament, says:—"The financial critics of the Opposition may go through the medium of an attack on the financial and administrative records of the Ontario Government. But their speeches are not likely to alter the general public belief that the record of the Liberal party in Ontario in these respects is, on the whole, creditable. It is as truly the duty of honest journalism to praise the good work of a party as to condemn its evil deeds. The resources of the Province of Ontario have been on the whole wisely handled. The revenues of the Province of Ontario have been fairly distributed and its expenditures there has been a constant endeavor to secure efficiency in results without extravagance in outlay. There is no profit for the Opposition in wholesale denunciation of the Government in regard to administrative dealings, which have been creditable to the dominant party and profitable to the Province. It would be well for Toronto if its administrators had guarded the public resources as carefully and spent the public money as frugally as the resources of Ontario have been guarded and the money of Ontario has been spent. It would be good tactics for the Conservatives to try and prove that they would do as well or better than the Grits have done in handling the public resources or spending the public money, but the Opposition does not strengthen itself by its feeble and ineffectual attempts to prove that the Liberals have handled the public resources unwisely, or have spent the public money either rashly or dishonestly."