

two—the expenditure of the public money of the Province through the Government instead of through the municipal councils, and the wages of two or three overseers.

The Hon. Mr. Gibson, Commissioner of Crown Lands, has in the House fully replied to and refuted the Opposition criticism, yet it may be presumed that the same unfounded statements and deliberately misleading assertions will continue to be made during the campaign.

With respect to the expenditure of colonization road moneys by the municipal councils, at the last Session of the Legislature the Opposition moved that these moneys, where municipal government existed, should be handed over to be expended by the municipal authorities. It might be a sufficient answer to say that the House, by a majority of 26, negatived the motion, that one Conservative and eight Patrons voted with the Government, while only one Independent and one Patron supported the Opposition, but as this seems to be one of the two small planks to which the Opposition cling, it may be well to examine it. First, the Government is responsible for the appropriation it has to come down to the House and show where the money is to be spent and the necessity for it, and it is responsible for the application and proper expenditure of the sum voted. Under these circumstances why should it abdicate its supervision in favor of a body over whom it has no control and who have no responsibility either to it or to their constituents for the proper expenditure of this money? Why should it leave to these irresponsible parties the direction of the expenditure, the selection of foremen, the purchase of supplies, the fixing of wages, and probably the employment of only those favorable to the existing municipal authorities? It is an axiom that those responsible for the expenditure of moneys should control the spending. If that supervision is taken from them, they must be absolved from responsibility. Curiously enough, too, where counties or townships have made grants to roads to supplement the Government grants, they almost invariably ask that the Government shall take charge of the work and spend the money, and where this has been done no complaints have been made. Nor must it be overlooked that a very large proportion of colonization road money is spent where there are no municipal councils, so that in any event the Government would still have control of the major portion of the expenditure. Obviously, the Opposition have not thought this matter out.

With respect to the other little plank, the Opposition seems to have centered its attacks on the payment of a few overseers made five or six years ago, holding up unfairly a few cases as