

The Consolidated Revenue Fund.

After the estimates, supplementary and further supplementary estimates have been passed, the same are incorporated in an Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the Public Service of the current financial year and the ensuing one. It is always enacted that these sums shall be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Province, which is the accumulation of ordinary receipts over ordinary expenditure, excluding transactions chargeable to Capital or of a statutory nature. All money raised by way of loan for the public service is also secured upon the credit of this fund and in the last analysis is chargeable thereto.

Up to the year 1906 (the year after the Conservative Administration came into power) the Public Account contained a statement of the Consolidated Revenue Account, which was added each year the excess of receipts on ordinary account over expenditure, and the public was able to tell at a glance the strength of the Consolidated Revenue of the Province, upon which appropriations have to be made and upon the credit of which loans are secured for the carrying out of all kinds of public works and the liquidation of floating debts. This Account was discontinued by the Conservatives in the year 1907, and the consequence is that members of the House have to deduct from the total receipts and expenditures whatever they consider belongs to Capital Account, in order to ascertain the ordinary receipts and expenditures which are chargeable to the Consolidated Revenue Fund; and even then they have no means of determining what the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Ontario now amounts to, because since 1907 there has been no statement in the Public Accounts showing the position of this Account. The present Government takes care to boost the estimated resources of the Province. They estimate them at \$600,000,000, but the public must remember that it is not against the resources of the Province that money is appropriated or loans secured, but upon the credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, which no one can at present ascertain from the Public Accounts tabled in the Legislature.

Commissions.

One of the most striking charges against the present Administration is that it is governed by Commissions at a tremendous expense of public money, instead of performing the functions of government itself. This Commission Government has failed to realise that the people of Ontario do not pay salaries to Ministers of the Crown and provide them with large staffs merely to dis-