

every dollar of which is paid back to the people of this Province to reduce taxation, amounted to \$831,705! Now this is an indication of how the money goes. (App.) And I think we all agree that these are useful and wise expenditures.

Mr. Matheson: What is the increase in receipts during that time?

Mr. Davis: I might say to my hon. friend that the Public Accounts show that increase to have been sufficient to meet the expanding business of the Province and have a large surplus on hand. (App.)

#### Growth of Crown Lands Business.

Now, I want to give in another way an indication to the members of this House that increased expenditure is necessary in the present condition of the Province. I take the Crown Lands Department because I am more familiar with that; but I believe that, as an illustration, it will hold good with regard to all the other departments of service in the Province. I find that in 1899 there were 34,253 letters received in the Crown Lands Department. In 1903 62,333 were received. In 1899 there were sent out from the department 40,723 letters, and in 1903 51,250. The volume of business, as indicated by the correspondence during those four years, shows an increase of 50 per cent. This means, as we are all glad to see, that the business of the Province is growing in every direction, and it is necessary for those responsible for the conduct of public business to see that we transact as promptly and faithfully as we can this increased amount of business, and that means necessarily, a more or less increased expenditure.

#### A Wonderful Admission.

Our Hon. friend made a wonderful admission in his address the other day. He actually informed us from his place in the House, that we had enough pine timber left to still have two or three more sales as large as the sale held on the 9th of December last. I am glad he made that discovery. It is a valuable discovery and, in this connection, I would like to quote two or three statements made some years ago by leading gen-

tleman opposite as to the position of our pine. In quoting this I do not do so offensively at all, but for the purpose of showing the want of care with which some Hon. gentlemen opposite make public statements; their lack of accurate data and information leave an entirely wrong and unfair impression upon the people of the Province as to our position. Quoting from the Mail of the 19th of June, 1893, I find that Mr. Miscampbell, a prominent member of this House, said: "We have not the timber area commonly supposed." Mr. Clancy said: "It would not be many years until all the timber resources of the Province would be dissipated." Quoting from the same paper of the 10th of June, 1897, my friend the leader of the Opposition, at Exeter, made this statement: "The timber resources of the Government were all but exhausted; in a few days the sale of almost the last tract would be advertised." A sale was to be held that fall under the direction of my predecessor in the Crown Lands Department. Then, on the 2nd of September, 1897, the leader of the Opposition said, at Shelburne: "Countless acres of timber lands were sold to provide for annual expenses. The last of the timber lands were disposed of three weeks ago." Then the Mail of the 10th of June, 1897, reports my friend, the member for West York, as making the following statement at St. Thomas: "The Government was now advertising the sale of practically all the remaining valuable white pine limits of this Province, including the townships of Rathbun, Davis, Kelly and other locations in the Rainy River District." The leader of the Opposition, at Welland, in the same week, states: "The Province of Ontario was at the end of its resources. In the Toronto papers the last of the Province's assets in timber limits was being advertised for sale." The people of the Province were told that the pine was all gone and that there was no hope for any revenue from pine in years to come. At Collingwood Mr. Whitney said: "Next session, if we have one, the