

that amount is of the present value of about \$24,000,000, reckoning money as worth 5 per cent. If the money, in case it were in hand and invested, would not bring 5 per cent. (as it would not), the present value of the annuity to the Province is more than would be represented by a capital of \$24,000,000. No business man and no company, in making up a balance sheet, would put such an annuity down at less than that sum. Occasionally it is suggested that the subsidies to the Province should be abandoned, and the Provinces left to raise by direct taxes what they now receive from the Dominion Government. This, however, can only be done on the common consent of all the Provinces; and there is no chance whatever of the other Provinces agreeing to such a proposal, whatever Ontario might be willing to do. I doubt very much if a majority of even the people of Ontario would be willing to give up the subsidy at the expense of adding the amount to their municipal taxes, notwithstanding all that could be said in favor of that course.

#### THE FOUR ITEMS.

*The four items* which I have mentioned at the low estimates at which I propose for my present purpose to take them, amount to \$74,900,000, though that amount is greatly below what the facts and evidence point to as the proper and reasonable amount.

This amount is arrived at, as you will have observed, after making liberal deductions, setting down nothing for unsold Crown lands, except the lands in Toronto which are held for sale, and setting down nothing for the 89,000 square miles of territory of which no estimate has been made. Nor have I set down as assets our Parliament buildings, our Agricultural College buildings, our Model and Experimental Farm, our Mimico land, our School of Practical Science, our Central Prison, our Reformatory for Females, our Penetanguishene Reformatory, our Asylums for the Insane at Toronto, Hamilton, London, Kingston and Mimico, and for Idiots at Orillia, our buildings for the blind at Brantford and for deaf mutes at Belleville, and our lockups and other public buildings and public works throughout the Province. These cost many millions, and are worth, for the purposes for which they are used, all that they have cost. But no other use of any of these being contemplated, except the public uses to which they are now put, I omit them from the statement of saleable or revenue-producing assets.

#### SURPLUS ASSETS.

Then come the items which successive Treasurers, from the time of the Treasurer the Hon. E. B. Wood, have been in the habit of bringing together in their financial statements to the House on going into supply each session. They consist of cash in hand, and some items which are regarded as quasi-cash items. The following are the particulars:—

(1) Trust funds in the hands of the Dominion Government, as to which there is no dispute, and on which the Dominion pays the Province interest at 5 per cent. These funds on the 31st December, 1892, were stated in the Treasurer's financial statement, in the session of 1893, to be as follows:—

The Upper Canada Grammar School fund.....	\$ 312,769
The Upper Canada building fund.....	1,472,391
The Land Improvement fund.....	124,685

\$1,909,845

(2) The Common School fund in the hands of the Dominion, and of which Ontario's share was set down at \$1,441,882.

(3) Dominion debentures on hand, in December, 1893, and since