

\$2,000 a mile; the Town of St. Catharines being allowed \$3,000 a mile in respect of its aid to the Welland Railway. A further reduction was then made, which members, and especially those who represented the non-borrowing municipalities, were ready to acquiesce in, by which, if the amount was still found to exceed a two cent rate upon the assessment, it should be brought down to that limit; in other words, that no municipality should be required to raise more than two cents on the dollar to meet these old obligations. No member who represented a constituency during the last Parliament has any right to complain, for there was no member who did not thoroughly acquiesce in these principles, and it is too late for any member now to discuss this question, for it is no longer open. It was pronounced upon emphatically by the last House, and that action has been confirmed by the country at the general election, together with many other matters with which this Administration had to deal during the last four years. The amount received for debentures up to the 31st December, 1874, was \$799,525, and up to the 30th September, 1875, \$593,286, making a total of \$1,392,811, and leaving \$170,820 yet to realize, amounting in all to \$1,563,631.

I now propose to give hon. gentlemen the position which the year 1876 is likely to assume with reference to its revenue and expenditure. My estimate of the revenue for 1876 is \$2,350,000, basing it on similar receipts to those of 1875, except that I allow for a difference in receipts from Crown Lands, which I estimate at \$588,000 as compared with \$752,000 estimated and about \$500,000 received for 1875. The Department assumes that its operations will be more satisfactory during the coming than they have been during the present year, and that the deficiency for the present year will be made up in 1876.

Mr. McDougall—Does the hon. gentleman concur in that assumption?

Mr. Crooks—So far as my information at present goes, there appears to be no reason why the revenue should not increase to the amount estimated, which would be about the average of the previous years, the average revenue for the years extending from 1868 to 1875 being \$588,000. The return on which this estimate is based is the following:—The Assistant-Commissioner reports that he anticipates the receipts of the Department for 1876 as follows: Crown Lands \$75,000, Grammar School Lands \$8,000, Clergy Lands \$30,000, Common School