

## THE SURPLUS.

This fund is now about four and a half millions. It is often declared—"They have no surplus; it is spent." But the Opposition are, or should be, men of some capacity. Have they ever gone over the accounts, and showed, as business men, that it was gone, or almost gone? If they had, who could deny it? The plain facts would be there. It has not been done, and hardly attempted, except in allegations so destitute of proof as have merely excited contempt. Let me give you one fact, which you are all in a position to see is correct. Observe the sums Government have spent for very useful matters, which they need not have spent, as not being within mere Government business, and which, if they had kept, would have left them in hand a very large surplus indeed. They have given towards education in these eleven years over four million dollars; to assist the counties in criminal court business, nearly two millions; to care for sick and lunatic or vicious people, about four and a half millions; for buildings for them, and internal navigation works, nearly three millions; in encouraging agriculture, opening up roads, and assisting settlers, nearly three and a half millions; to clear off the municipal fund debt, over three millions; and to help railways, nearly three and a half millions. Notice how large a surplus might have been on hand if Government had chosen. They now give the figures in their accounts to show that they have the large amount mentioned yet on hand.

## THE USE OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—WHAT OURS IS DOING.

There is a complaint that Canada is over-governed. But let me suggest to your consideration that our country has not too much governmental machinery, if it is employed usefully. The people are not many, but are very widely spread. There is an area of operation for each Government, quite as large as they can manage of local work, which no General Government can at all so well understand. How can the British Columbian or the Nova Scotian—as far from us as is the Gulf of Mexico—be fit to manage our local work, or we theirs? How could Councils do the work of legislation and administration which our Local Government does? We need Local Governments most decidedly; but only if they do the work the great area committed to them needs—find out its wants and relieve them—observe what its means of prosperity are and assist them. If they do that, we are not over-governed. Let us examine and we will find that Mr. Mowat's Government are