

CONSERVATIVE ADMINISTRATION IN QUEBEC.

FINANCIAL MIS-RULE.

What Powers the Quebec Government Possesses.

It is to be lamented that a great many people do not take as much interest as they ought to do in the Provincial Government at Quebec. Its doings and proceedings are less known than the acts of Governments in far distant lands. Laws which bear on our everyday life are passed and, beyond a fleeting notice in the press, nothing is known of them; yet they bear on the constitutional rights of the people. It is this apathy of the many that is, in the main, responsible for the various and sundry things which have occurred at the Provincial Capital that to-day are having a most serious effect on the present and future well-being of the Province. If there had not have been such absolute indifference on the part of the electors the deeds of shame, which it is the duty of this pamphlet to relate, could never have taken place.

One reason, too often given, for this indifference as to what is going on at Quebec, is the utterly fallacious idea that the Provincial Government has no powers to speak

of, and it does not very much matter what it does. In short, that it is a sort of playing at government. As the Constitution stands at present this is about as far from the truth as it is possible to be.

In order that the people may see the magnitude of the issues to be placed before them during the coming elections, the following list of the powers of the Provincial Government is commended to the careful attention of every man who is inspired with that love of home and country which is the prime need of a progressive people.

Under the British North America Act of 1867, sec. 92, this is what the Government of the Province can do:

It may exclusively make laws in relation to matters coming within the classes of subjects next hereinafter enumerated:

1. Amend the Constitution of the Province, except as regards the office of Lieutenant-Governor.

2. Direct taxation within the Province in order to the raising of a revenue for Provincial purposes.