

When the federal government assumed our debts in 1876 it allowed :

For Ontario's debt.....	\$5,013,608
Amount due.....	3,107,432
Surplus of assets for Ontario.....	\$1,906,180
For Quebec's debt.....	\$4,487,179
Amount due.....	4,183,520
Surplus of assets for Quebec.....	\$ 293,659
Difference in favour of Ontario.....	\$1,612,527

Then, Quebec receives only \$1,014,712 of subsidy against \$1,333,568 which Ontario receives, or a difference of \$318,000 a year. Now, the expenses of administration are the same. The expenses of government do not increase in exact ratio to the increase of population. We have, therefore, to contend with three disadvantages : surplus necessary for the administration of justice, \$100,000 ; surplus for the Legislative Council and expenses necessitated by the use of two languages in parliamentary procedure, \$85,000. If we add the difference in the subsidy \$318,000, we have every year in the Province of Quebec for the carrying on of the government and the working of our institutions an excess of expense of over \$503,000. This amount is sufficient to show that in the respective situation of Ontario and Quebec since confederation, our province has been placed in a position of inferiority which gives it a right to look for the good will if not the liberality of the other provinces.

THE PROVINCIAL DEBT.

The debt contracted in the Province of Quebec during the period from 1873 to 1883 is here set forth :—

Loan of 1874.....	\$5,893,333
" 1876.....	4,185,335
" 1878.....	3,000,000
" 1880.....	4,275,853
" 1882.....	3,000,000
" 1883.....	500,000
	\$18,854,521

The dates indicate the obvious responsibility of each government. The government of M. DeBoucherville augmented the debt by \$8,078,668 ; the government of Mr. Joly, \$3,000,000, and that of which I had the direction by \$7,775,853. Such is the responsibility of the DeBoucherville, Joly and Chapleau governments respectively, in regard of the railway debt. The following sums were paid for the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental Railway by the governments specified :—

The DeBoucherville Government—

1875.....	\$ 450,700
1876.....	1,322,055
1877.....	3,203,130
1878.....	2,146,108
	\$7,321,999

Joly Government—

1878.....	\$ 86,786
1879.....	1,900,980
1880.....	200,000
	\$2,187,766

The total expended for the year ending June 30, 1880, was \$268,129, but there was a sum of \$68,129 chargeable to the Chapleau Government, which came into power at close of 1879 :

Chapleau Government—

1880.....	\$ 68,129
1881.....	2,206,328
1882.....	857,391
	\$3,958,727

I have not to justify the administrations of Messrs. de Boucherville and Joly, which are not attacked, but I may justify myself against the attacks that have been made on me, and which have served as a pretext for those who are really opposed to granting Quebec her claims. The expenses of the administration of which I had the direction, the employment of all the sums that were borrowed under it, have been verified dollar for dollar. Besides, the accounts and statements of these expenses are at Quebec and accessible to everyone. I defy any person to point out the expenditure of a cent that was not legitimate and profitable. But I will spare this house the enumeration of figures that would weary it. Nevertheless, I had thought it proper to bring them together in such a way as to be able to give any desired information in the most complete manner possible. I will for the present content myself with a mere recapitulation. There was paid for the railroad :

By Mr. DeBoucherville.....	\$7,321,999
By Mr. Joly.....	2,187,767
By Mr. Chapleau.....	3,958,727
Mr. DeBoucherville contracted the first obligation and spent.....	7,321,000
Estimated expenses for completion and for engagements incurred at.....	2,516,955
	\$9,838,974
Mr. Joly, on assuming charge of the road, spent.....	\$2,187,765
Left engagements incurred for.....	2,113,314
	\$4,301,081
Mr. Chapleau completed the road for.....	\$3,958,727
Less engagements left by Mr. Joly.....	2,113,314
Responsibility of the Chapleau government.....	\$1,845,413