

I would ask you to consider what has been the result of all this. The whole Province has been so chequered by railways that most farmers are near them, while macadamized, gravel, and graded roads connect in all directions. We have a far larger number of schools, and they are each far more efficient than the old ones. We have added to the Province as it was in '71 a newer belt of cleared farms along all its northern border. Many and costly reformatory, prison, refuge and asylum buildings have been erected. Villages are towns, and towns cities. (Think of Toronto as it was ten years back: it seems more than double now.) Population and wealth, business and revenue are much greater. Spite of the depression, Ontario's yearly imports and exports are over twenty millions more now than ten years ago. In fact, any one going through the Province could not fail to see we are much better off now. This is not the result of good crops or high prices—they have been rare. The Province for the last few years may be compared to a farmer who, finding little sale for his crops—and poor growing seasons—devotes most of his energies to improving his farm buildings, his drainage and fencing. His farm is then more valuable, and when good farming seasons return will be doubly as valuable. That is what Ontario, through what appears to me, after a good deal of investigation, to be a decidedly honest and capable government, has been doing. When the good times return we shall find the profit of our improvements. And remember, we have not gone one cent into debt; but, on the contrary, have still a surplus of some four or five millions left. For this fact, without asking any other evidence, or holding a commission or audit to audit our auditors, we have Mr. Mowat's personal word—the word of a good lawyer and an honest man. I am sure you must recognize the value of having in such a position a man of whom we can say as much; nor can you be unaware of the lack of patriotism of many—of the contemptible personal motives of many—who, knowing how few his equal we have had in office in Canada, would try to drive him from power. I trust well it is impossible they can succeed.

I wish to remark here that all this is that increase of expenditure to which the opponents of the Mowat Government pretend