

## COLONIZATION ROADS EXPENDITURE.



The opening up for settlement of the newer parts of the Province is perhaps as important a duty as any performed by the Government. This necessitates the construction of colonization roads, which not only affords access and intercommunication, but gives to the settlers an opportunity of earning a few dollars. From 1872 to 1897 the Liberal Government has constructed an annual average of 182 miles of new roads; it has repaired an annual average of 413 miles; it has erected an annual average of 3,285 feet of bridges; and it has spent on these roads and bridges in the new districts an annual average of \$110,246. To sum up: In 26 years it has built 4,725 miles of colonization roads; it has repaired 10,737 miles of roads; it has erected 85,421 feet of bridges, and has spent in the above works \$2,900,000.

When one considers the number of men employed, the amount of money disbursed, and the thousands of hands through which it has to pass, mistakes might well be looked for, and the vigilant eyes of the Opposition might well have found them out, for each member or candidate of the Conservative Party is a Vigilance Committee of one to watch the expenditure in his county. Every Session of the Legislature the accounts for the various roads are asked for and brought down to the Public Accounts Committee, and there the Opposition members go through them hunting for frauds and mistakes. This keen inspection has gone on year after year, but there has not been found any fraud, or the misappropriation of one dollar, or any account which has not been properly vouched for. Indeed, a few years ago, the late financial critic of the Opposition, Mr. Clancy, had the whole expenditure on colonization roads since 1872 under his personal investigation in the Public Accounts Committee. He spent the whole Session examining witnesses and prying into accounts, and in this enormous expenditure, extending over so long a period, everything was found to be vouched for with the exception of two cents!

Speaking generally, prior to the Session just closed, the Opposition seemed to have abandoned all points of criticism except