

and the operation of the Mechanics' Lien Act made more complete. The House also ratified twelve Orders in Council respecting aid to railway companies, viz. :

1. Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway, from Toronto to Weston, and
2. Extensions of time of completion to eleven companies.

Sixty-four private Acts were passed, sixteen having reference to railways or their incorporation.

The Estimates introduced by me for 1875 amounted to \$2,187,657 and comprised the following : (1) current expenditure \$1,807,594 ; (2) on capital account \$270,700 ; 3) for other purposes \$110,063 ; the sum of \$132,370 being re-votes for amounts unexpended in 1874, and \$39,330 being for new expenditures.

Upon this record of four Sessions, the General Election was held in January, 1875, and that record was accepted by a large majority of the electors as not only satisfactory but as having demonstrated the wisdom of Confederation under which Provincial and local questions had been committed to a Provincial Legislature. The Government was also fully vindicated in its discharge of the various duties and responsibilities entrusted to it on behalf of the Province ; such as the efficient administration of justice, civil and criminal, management of finances of the Province, the construction and maintenance of public buildings and works, the promotion of agriculture, science and art, the conduct of the several public institutions, the management of the public lands and revenue, all educational matters, including Public and High Schools and the Provincial University, and generally all those matters of daily concern on which the welfare of each inhabitant of the Province depends. The financial exhibit as of the 30th September, 1874, showed a considerable improvement over that in December, 1871, the close of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's Government. The then surplus invested was \$3,637,979, but chargeable with \$1,500,000 the amount of the Railway Aid Fund established by him, leaving thus \$2,137,979, which was liable also to meet \$764,694 of the unexpended appropriations for that year, of which \$348,991 were for public works and buildings, and which were not expended till the year 1873, thus leaving the true surplus \$1,373,285 (c). The statement made by me on the 19th November, 1874, established that our surplus was \$5,756,352. In this was included the amount of the municipal loan fund debts, as reduced, and the special funds with the Dominion ; but against this was the additional charge of \$400,000 added by Mr. Blake to the railway fund, \$250,000 of the accrued railway subsidy payments, and \$3,115,733 amount of surplus distribution. The surplus of revenue actually received over the expenditure under the appropriations for the years 1872 and 1873, and up to the 30th of September, 1874, amounted to \$1,714,894, and supplied the necessary funds to meet the payments, as called for, to railways and municipalities without disturbing the investments.

(c) See note in Appendix.