

seen in matters Dominion that the most important have been committed to Ministers who have little experience or knowledge of Ontario (a); and it would be found in the event of a Legislative Union that the conduct of Provincial affairs now satisfactorily regulated and administered would be entrusted to the like inexperienced and uninformed officials.

The one colourable argument for such a step, is the assumed expense of carrying on the two systems of Government; but if the expenditure of the Province of Ontario for the purpose of Legislation (which is one of the few subjects which could be dispensed with), amounting to \$111, 250 and a portion under Civil Government saved, the total economy effected for the year 1879 would amount to about the sum of \$150,000; for the expenditure for all other Provincial objects would be as necessary under a Legislative Union as now, and with the certain danger of larger amounts being required owing to the difficulty of managing as economically at Ottawa as at Toronto; and if this argument of expense is to be pressed, a simpler mode of diminishing the general expenditure would be in the reduction, which could readily be made without detriment to the efficiency of the public service or to Canadian interests, in the expense of Civil Government and Legislation at Ottawa, amounting as shown by the estimates for 1879-80 for Civil Government to \$874, 881, and for Legislation to \$628, 186, or a total of 1,503,067 (b).

Having regard then to the nature and extent of the jurisdiction possessed by the Province of Ontario, and all the powers and authorities to be exercised according to the principles of the British system of Constitutional Government, I will proceed with a review of the measures of legislation and acts of Administration from the time the Reform party was entrusted with the duties of Government, on the 19th of December, 1871, to the present time, and comprising the several sessions of the Second and Third Parliaments of Ontario.

THE FIRST SESSION OF SECOND PARLIAMENT. (1871-2).

During this Session, which met on the 7th December, 1871, under Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's Ministry, the Government of Mr. Blake, which displaced it on the 20th December, was at a disadvantage in having to prepare the work of the Session after it had commenced; but the actual work accomplished justified the condemnation passed upon his predecessor, and gave plain evidence of the ability of the Reform Government to carry into effect what they had contended for in opposition, for Mr. Blake passed an Act under which every Order in Council authorising payments to any railway company from the Railway Fund, should be laid before the Legislative Assembly for its sanction before such order could become operative, and also another Act by which the further sum of \$400,000 was added to the former \$1,500,000,

(a) see Appendix as to this

(b) see Appendix as to this