

the Province are in earnest in opening colonization roads, facilitating the construction of bridges and other works necessary to the settler, doing all in their power to make our wild lands attractive, and developing our municipal and school systems so as to make them effective and attractive—there will be an *elan* given to the settlement of the country, such as we have not seen yet. [Cheers.] The advancement of the country has not been bad. [Hear, hear.] But encouraged as I believe it will be, in the next few years, it will be much greater still. [Cheers.]

Passing, then, to the Administration of Justice, I again readily admit that what we propose specially to do this year is but little. The thing to be done is to secure quiet, steady, administrative work. We require a gradual cutting down of every expense connected with this service—a making of the Administration of Justice as inexpensive as possible without lessening its efficiency. A great deal can be done in this respect; and in reference to the kindred subject of prison and reformatory discipline, a great deal of economy can be practised, with time. I may be told perhaps, that my estimates are not cut down to the standard of this economy that I wish to practice. Certainly they are not. I know that such economies take time. It is not in the first six months that you can really come at your results. It may take months, even years; but if your measures are really well devised, and honestly and ably carried out, in the course of a few years, their fruit will be seen.

In this connexion, let me take a single illustration of what may be done in this line, without noisy legislation, with the bulk of the people at the time not so much as knowing of it. I speak of a matter connected with the Administration of Justice in Lower Canada within the last few years; and to which I am happy to have this opportunity of adverting,—as an act of justice to the administrative policy of my hon. friend the member for Montreal Centre, while Attorney General for Lower Canada. It will be remembered that just before 1860, the great measure of judicial decentralization as regards this Province was adopted. The six old judicial districts, and more especially, the great districts of Montreal, Quebec and Three Rivers, were dismembered. Shortly before, the fees of their official functionaries had been funded, and those officers placed on salaries to be drawn from that source. In consequence of this decentralization, with all these gentlemen at the salaries men subsisting and which could not be cut down, there was at first a heavy deficit in the six districts. In 1860, upon the salaries of their civil establishment alone, this deficit reached \$17,070; these salaries exceeding the receipts by that amount. Well, all that was done to meet the case, was the adoption of a certain change in the tariff of fees, of which nobody complained,—of which, indeed, most people never even heard—much less knew they were affected or hurt by it. Well, this mere change of tariff reduced the deficit next year to \$7,402; the year after, to \$3,072; in 1863, to \$1,815; and in 1864, to \$1,240. For 1865, there was a surplus of \$39; and although for 1866, the last year I can give, there was again a deficit, it was only for \$635; showing how much has been gained by this change. Even for that last year, there was thus a saving of nearly \$17,000 on this head alone. In the other districts, where the fees are not funded as in these six, they maintain their entire staff of employees on the civil side of the Courts, and give a good many of them