Mowat booastres

Supplement to the "Guelph Mercury and Advertiser." Speech

REFORM GOVERNMENT IN ONTARIO.

The Premier Reviews the Work of His Administration.

Full Report of His Woodstock Speech.

stock, on Thursday night, 12th Dec. In plish these victories of the past, but now spite of the fact that only two days' not- all men when they look back wonder how lands, Common School lands, Grammar ice of the meeting had been given, and measures so advantageous to the com- School lands, Crown lands, woods and that, consequently, many persons throughout the Riding were uninformed of it, has on the whole worked with a success

munity and so necessary could have been opposed by anybody. Our new system that the receive interest upon various investments which the Province holds, and there was a large attendance of the most even surpassing the expectations of its of which I will have to speak by-and-bye. influential electors of Woodstock and best friends. North Oxford generally, the hall being DOMINION AND LOCAL QUESTIONS DIFFER- \$183,073. From various other sources crowded. Among the audience were a considerable number of ladies. The pro- inion elections are subjects which do not ceedings throughout were marked with belong to the Provincial jurisdiction that the utmost order and good feeling, the hon, gentleman carrying with him the proaching local elections you will have nothing to do with these subjects. The millions of dollars may be considered as entire sympathy of his hearers, who manifested their feelings by frequent and entire due to their feelings by frequent and entire of them are not involved, directly or indithusiastic bursts of applause. Mr. T. H. rectly, in the general election Parker, Mayor of Woodstock, presided, lature has nothing to do with the tariff. and in addition to Mr. Mowat, Messrs. We can neither raise it nor diminish it, Thos. Oliver, M. P. for North Oxford, nor can we alter anything contained in it. John Douglas, Esq., President of the Reform Association, Rev. W. T. Mc-Mullen and Rev. W. R. Parker occupied with the duties imposed on any articles which we consume, whether made in the only matters which can legitimately occupy seats on the platform.

though some people had little faith in the Legislature. We have no right to repeal speeches of politicians, he was sure all it; we have no right to alter it; we have present would agree with him when he no right to add anything to its provisions; said that they were fortunate in having as their representative a thoroughly honest and upright man. (Cheers.) After ties where the people favor such a law. they had heard the plain, unvarnished All these important matters, which occutale that he would deliver as to the work pied some attention during the late elechimself and his colleagues had done, they would, he was satisfied, agree with him to consider the issues involved in our arose the problem of how best, after setthat Mr. Mowat was the right man in the Provincial elections. right place. (Loud Cheers.)

MR. MOWAT'S SPEECH. On coming forward, Hon. Mr. Mowat, who was received with loud cheers, after thanking the audience for the kindly greeting and great consideration which he had invariably received from his consti-

tuents said :-It is recognized as a fitting thing that a representative of the people should, from time to time, appear before his constituents to give to them an account of what he had been doing as their representative, and it is fitting also that he should appear amongst them on other occasions. I have endeavored to discharge this duty, and regret exceedingly that I have not been able to visit you more frequently.

DOMINION AND LOCAL POLITICS. During the last general election contest

1 had the pleasure of addressing several

1 uencies the country shall be divided for meetings in North Oxford, though I attended but one meeting elsewhere. The matters under discussion did not relate to what the qualifications of electors shall be Provincial affairs; but I was doubtless and how the controverted elections are quite within my line of duty when, at the request of my constituents, I appeared at feeting the Provincial Legislature, the wrong in doing so. Thoy say in effect clusive jurisdiction over the subject of the that I came too often to North Oxford; administration of justice, the most essenting the set of the set tions are urged among the strongest rea- Provincial Legislature has exclusive jur-Ontario should be withdrawn fro It happened that my views upon the so-called National Policy coincided with the and cheers.) The question then before the people, whichever side was right with regard to it, was in the view of all men a largely indebted. The Provincial Legisquestion on which the future of this lature has also exclusive jurisdiction over of Canada would, by universal admission,

INTERESTED AS A CITIZEN. fitting for me, as a citizen of Ontario, as have made is sufficient to enable you to one interested in its well-being, to appear perceive how very important the Provinbefore my constituents or any others for cial jurisdiction is, and how very importhe purpose of expressing my views on great public questions. (Hear, hear.) It is quite true that the Local Government well as possess public confidence. (Hear, ought to be independent of the Dominion Government ; but though the two Governments may be wholly unconnected, yet to our financial matters. there is no reason why the members of either should not take a lively interest in important concerns with which they may In becoming a representative of the people in the Provincial Assembly, and in taking the position of Premier of the local Government, I did not forego the legal and constitutional right which a private individual possesses to take part as opportunity offered in all matters of public in-The people of Canada have declared that in this country there shall be no connection between Church and State. Does this debar an officer of the State from taking public part in the affairs of his Church ! Does my position in the State forbid my attending Church meetings, to discuss there questions in which I feel an interest? There is no reason why I should abstain from taking part in matters relating to the general welfare of the Dominion. But nobody thinks there is really any incongruity about the mat-ter, and the objection is only set up because those who make it feel that there is no solid reason why the people of Ontario should withhold from my colleagues and myself in the future that confidence which they have extended to us in the past.

OUR CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM. our present constitutional system was eshad been won in the interests of the peo-ple of Canada before that time. The oblishment of the system which put an end for ever to French Tory rule in Ontario—
for the management of all
we received interest from the Dominion quired them to pay to the extent of their

would be more generally accepted as sausformers differed from one another. Ing products to market; they led to the
formers differed from one another. Ing products to market; they led to the
formers differed from one another. But I had glways a very great respect for creation of new villages, and they increasformers differed from one another. Ing products to market; they led to the
award of the arbitrators a large addition
we received interest from the Dominion quired them to pay to the extent of their

The subjects agitated at the late Dom. enue for 1877 \$2,452,077. country or out of it. We have no power The Chairman, in introducing the either to pass a prohibitory livuor law. speaker of the evening, remarked that The Dunkin Act is a matter entirely beyond the jurisdiction of the Provincial tions, and on other occasions, we shall

whether as now of one House, the Legislative Assembly, or whether of two Houses, as is the case in most of the other Provinces. It is for the Provincial these meetings. Opposition newspapers and orators are pretending that I was diction to deal with. We have also exand my visits during the Dominion elec- tial function of every Goveinment. The sons why the confidence of the people of isdiction also over the great subjects of m me. property and civil rights. It has exclusviews of my constituents. (Hear, hear, to which the country owes a large meas country greatly depends. The prosperity all educational matters—the most important subject which can occupy the atter be affected one way or the other whatever | tion of any Legislature. (Cheers.) We conclusion the people should then arrive at. | have jurisdiction over various other matters of a local kind. Now, even the In such a case I hold that it was most slight and imperfect enumeration which I hear.) In the partial enumeration which I have given to you I have not referred

FINANCES-SOURCES OF REVENUE. The British North America Act provided for a certain sum-\$80,000-to be paid the province out of the Dominion localities was depreciated, men were afbecoming a representative of the peoTreasury annually towards the expenses raid to settle there, and the consequence aged to collect from all these what was of civil government. The Provinces re- was that important sections of our coun- material, and to comprise in a single volceive annually a further sum of money equal to eighty cents per head of the population under the census which had been taken before the passing of that Act—the taken before the passing of the property of the rest of the Province, and which it was the common interest of the whole country that every part of the state of the whole country that every part of the state of the whole country that every part of the state of the whole country that every part of the state of the whole country that every part of the state of the whole country that every part of the state of the sta ing sums :-

ing to Upper Canada by the late Province of Canada before Cenfeder-

arrangement made when the seignorial duty of the Governments which proceeded tenure was abolished in Lower Canada. ours as it was our duty to deal with the Harrison, who has lately gone to his final son it was necessary at the start to be very discussed considerably of late, which most Those of you who took an interest in politics at that period will recollect that in instead of removing the evil they had all whose death is a great public loss to the It is now more than eleven years since order to abolish the acignorial tenure, lowed it to go on increasing year after country. (Hear, hear.) The Government to spend. (Hear.) He was a personal the entire commercial world. But it is a present country to spend. (Hear.) He was a personal the entire commercial world. But it is a present country to spend. (Hear.) He was a personal friend of mine; we had been on the same remarkable fact that Ontario, though it tablished. That event was one of great importance to our country, and a great triumph to those whose persevering efforts brought it about. Other great battles brought it about. Other great battles and the sums were paid out of the public triumph to those whose persevering efforts and the sums were paid out of the public triumph to those whose persevering efforts brought it about. Other great battles brought it about. Other great battles are leaded as soon as his name was announced. Britation the same that the same the same that the same the same that of the House and that attempt the britation of Montreal, whose side of the House and that attempt the britation of the bound of the brown that I was a member, before acceptance as the britation of the bound of the brown that I was a member, before acceptance as the britation of the bound of the brown that I was a member, before acceptance as the britation of the bound of the brown that I was a member, before acceptance as the britation of the bound of the brown that I was a member, before acceptance as the britation of the brown that the same the constant of the House and that attempt the britation of the brown that I was a member, before acceptance as the britation of the brown that the same threat that that distinct that the same that the same that the britation that the same that the britation that the same that the triumph to those whose persevering enerts brought it about. Other great battles lic treasury. It would have been an unhad been fought and other great victories had been won in the interests of the people of Canada before that time. The ob-Upper Canada was more largely interested taining of responsible government, the calcularization of the elergy reserves, the establishment of municipal institutions (in spite of the charge made against them that they would be mere "sucking republies") were the results of severe and long struggles, and all were victories of great value; but not less difficult nor less important than these was the establishment of the system which put an end in whose judgment and impartality, and impartantly as fished to settle the difficulty that gave the country. (Cheers.) We canada had contributed much more than Lower Canada; and to which Upper canada and to which Upper canada and that large could have confidence. Lower Canada and the country. (Cheers.) We canada had contributed much more than Lower Canada; and to which Upper canada and the country. (Cheers.) We delted municipalities was not only the spending of that large form caucus previous to the form caucus previous

In 1877 the amount of such interest was we receive other sums, making our rev-

AVERAGE AMOUNT OF REVENUE. The revenue since Confederation has millions of dollars may be considered as our average annual revenue from all sources. Now, the great governmental purposes of the Administration of Justice, Civil Administration, and Legislation do not require much more than one-fifth of this sum. Some say that Government ought to have nothing to do with any-

the fund had been for twenty years without making any payment, though they were able to pay, and others had been for a considerable number of years equally neglectful of their duty. All this time ed upon promptly, and has been completthe body of the people, including those who resided in unindebted municipalias for northerly as the case required. And ties, were paying the interest upon the money which had been borrowed by the indebted municipalities, and which they had not repaid. Those who had derived of the boundary between Ontario and the no benefit from the money were thus Dominion on our western and northern which it was utterly beyond their power yond the power of the borrowing muni-

census of 1861—that sum being payable it should enjoy.

The B. N. A. Act

This preliminary which were consulted. This preliminary work great and tedious, but it made ultiprovides also that every Province should sense was a worse one than any of those I have mentioned, namely, that the danger ranged with the Government of the Doits lands, its mines and minerals and its royalties, and so on. It is from those sources that the revenue of the Province denly to pay had the effect of keeping is derived. We thus receive from the municipalities to a large extent in chains bitrators, and that what we should do was Dominion Treasury annually the follow- to the Government of the day and was a to carry the case to the Privy Council in- our command from year to year, and the by the Province, including the bonuses source of undue influence upon some of stead of arbitrating. We did not concur those municipalities from which the whole in that view. Though we estimated high-should be employed. Mr. Sandfield Mac-000,000. on account of the specific amount that I have mentioned 50 account of the subsidy of eighty cts. per head 50 account of the subsidy of eighty cts. And for interest on certain funds ow 2 growing difficulties connected with those municipalities from which the whole country suffered. It was our duty to find some solution for the formidable and of the Privy Council, we thought that on the previous years, in that view. Though we estimated high-layed donald be employed. Mr. Sandfield Maccount of the privy Council, we thought that on the previous years, in that view. Though we estimated high-layed donald be employed. Mr. Sandfield Maccount of the privy Council, we thought that on the previous years, in that view. Though we estimated high-layed donald be employed. Mr. Sandfield Maccount of the privy Council, we thought that on the previous years, in that view. Though we estimated high-layed donald be employed. Mr. Sandfield Maccount of the previous years, the private of the previous years, the previous years are previous years. country suffered. It was our duty to find by the ability and learning of the Judges donald was the first Premier. At the growing difficulties connected with those debts. It was quite true that the difficulties had existed for a long time; it was decide a case of this kind. Three arbi-The last sum chiefly arises from the guite true that it had been as much the grangement made when the seignorial duty of the Governments which proceeded vince of Ontario selected Chief Justice of the Province would be. For this readers and requirements period of depression all over the world—of the Province would be. For this readers are decided a case of this kind. Three are what the annual wants and requirements period of depression all over the world—of the Province would be.

Hon. Oliver Mowat, Premier of Ontario, and addressed a meeting of his constituents of North Oxford in the Town Hall, Woodstock on Thursday night, 12th Dec. In In that settlement no party preferences were observed; we applied the same rule to Tory municipalities as we did to those which were Reform, and to municipalities which were neither Tory nor Reform, if there are any such. (Cheers.) Our scheme passel almost without criticism at the time, and although you may now and then hear a little carping at this or the other feature of it, there has never to this day been suggested by anybody a comprehensive scheme which it was even claimed

ensive scheme which it was even claimed would have been superior to ours; and I therefore venture to say that there never will be. (Hear, hear.) That was one great Provincial problem, then, which had defied our predecessors, and with which we grappled promptly and successfully. (Cheers.)

but little over half a million of dollars.

How the revenue should be made, the British North America Act years of Confederation enabled your representatives to see what the probable needs of the country would be, and what division of the assets of the country would be, and what division of the assets of the old Province of Canada should be made, the British North America Act did not determine, and required to be a bearing on the matter in hand in some way and had escaped his attention. The form of the law, facility for ascertaining what the boaus should be was left entirely what the law is, has been said by jurists to the Government of the day. No notice to be as important, if not more important. presentatives to see what the probable tions, and on other occasions, we shall have nothing to do with when we come to consider the issues involved in our Provincial elections.

QUESTIONS OF PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION.

And yet our Provincial Legislature has very large powers. When you call to mind the various branches of jurisdiction which it possesses you will find that they include those subjects with which the great bulk of legislation in Canada before confederation had to do, and the great items of past years be employed? That reclaim to consider the issues involved in our provincial elections.

And yet our Provincial Legislature has very large powers. When you call to which it possesses you will find that they include those subjects with which the great bulk of legislation in Canada before Confederation had to do, and the great.

The trackled was not solved no our provincial legislation was not solved nor anything. The people disapproved of the country would be, then the law is, has been said by jurists to the Government of the day. No notice to be as important, if not more important, the law is, has been said by jurists the proplate expenditure would be, then the proplem eds of the country would be, then the proplem of how best, after setting aside this part, the balance of our revenue could be employed; and it was a problem which might well occupy very great attention on the part of your representatives and on the par come within one or the other of these descriptions of past years be employed? That problem was not solved nor anything like solved, when a Reform Government diction to regulate our own local constitution, except so far as affects the office of the Lieutenant-Governor. It is for the Lieutenant-Governor and revision of our whole statute law, cannot alway dication. We were unable, however, to come tribunal for adju-dication. We were unable, however, to come to be beyond what the Province of Quebec, whose people had been made to be beyond what Ontario was for any other act of our the other of the Government was of or any tiking out everything that was seen to be become dead, t cil. Representatives from the two Pro-

paying on it just as much as those who had derived all the benefit. And that was not the only disadvantage connected of enormously greater value than, the case with this state of things. Important of our easterly boundary. Little progress sections of the country had been kept had been made towards the solution of back in the race of improvement in con- this problem before Mr. Blake's Governsequence of the heavy indebtedness which | ment came into power. But immediately lay upon them, and which it was well upon his assuming the reins of office, he took known that they could not discharge steps for its settlement. I succeeded him in the work. Some of the questions into pay. In these cases sums so large had been lent that from the first it was be-bate for two centuries. The documents and papers bearing upon the question cipality to pay; and, where it was not were scattered over hundreds of old volbeyond their power to repay the loan ori- umes, a hundred old maps had to be conginally, it had become beyond their sulted, and the documents, books, and power by the accumulations of unpaid interest. Property in these ed in London and Paris, Washington and

none was of greater moment to our future | ters had with him been almost a passion

CONSOLIDATION OF THE STATUTES. fice. It was many years before that the statute law of Canada had been consolidated. Since that time annual volumes of statutes had been making their appearance, and these renealed some of the law. ance, and these repealed some of the laws as they stood in 1859, when the first con-The provincial desired and the sum. Some say that Government ought to have nothing to do with anything but these three things; they say that Civil Administration of Justice are the only matters which can legitimately occupy that treatment of Government. But however that may be, they certainly are the most important matters. They are essential functions of Government, whatever other functions Government, whatever other functions Government may have, and whatever other duties Government may have, and whatever other duties Government may discharge. The cost of these is now but little over half a million of dollars.

The provincial destriction as they stood in 1859, when the first consolidation took place, altered others, solidation took place, altered others, solidation took place, altered others, amended others; dead law was necessarily mixed up with the living law in every volume of the series could show which of its enactments in it were still in force and what the statute law was on any subject, but had the selection of the railway should be its enactments in it were still in force and what the statute law was on any subject, but had the selection of the railway should be its enactments in it were still in force and what the statute law was on any subject, but had the selection of the Legislature, not with the sanction of the Legislature, not even after no you had to consult perhaps twenty in dexes and volumes before you could be reasonably sure what the existing law was; and it was with fear and trembling but five over half a million of dollars.

The provincial Debts.

The provincial Debts.

The provincial Debts.

There was another important matter when we came into office. By the British North American Act a certain part of the debt of the last of the series could show was necessarily mixed up with the living law in every volume of the series could law was necessarily mixed up with the living law in every volume of the series; and no volume except the last amount he was induced to take into solidation took p twenty indexes attached to the existing the spirit of our constitutional system. It

work of the best paid Commissioners that stand some of the colleagues of Mr. Machad ever similar work to do in any country donald desiring this large power to be tak-I know of. (Cheers.) Upwards of eleven en by the Governor-in-Council, but it was hundred public general statutes had to be so contrary to what was to be expected examined, compared, and arranged, and from the whole political life of Mr. these were ultimately reduced by the con-solidation to two hundred and eleven. In this feature of his railway scheme was one the course of the work the whole body of of those matters in which he in his turn the statute law underwent legislative revi-

OTHER LEGISLATION. When the Reform Government took of-fice there were many subjects on which prompt legislation was needed. Legisla-tion was needed in regard to the arrange-tion was needed in regard to the arrangeion was needed in regard to the arrangement of the constitutencies; in regard to the election laws: in regard to the courts; donald's Government fell, his successor, in regard to our municipal institutions; in Mr. Blake, who had always fully recognize regard to our laws of property; in regard ed the value of railways in developing regard to a great many other subjects; and we have dealt with them all; and I venture to say we have dealt with them satisfactorily according to the judgment of isfactorily according to the judgment of our friends and of very many who were propriate \$100,000 a year for twenty years for the same object. Additional appropriate \$100,000 a year for the same object. not our political friends. Indeed, most of of the Acts which we have passed were not priations were made in my time. In reeven objected to by our opponents, or were objected to very slightly and by yory.

December, 1877, we had paid in aid of railwere objected to very slightly and by very few. I have the satisfaction of knowing ful than the most sanguine of our friends already received the approbation of the lothat our legislation has been more successful than the most sanguine of our friends seven years ago had looked for, and has frequently received the express approval shown by their previously contributing to frequently received the express approval of both our friends and others. (Cheers.) (7,089,480), being more than three times Legislature meets from time to time to the amount which the Government of the Government of the Amount which the Government of the Amount which the Government of the Amount which the Government of the Government of the Amount which the Government of the Amount which the Government of th

THE FINANCES. I am now to speak of our finances, and and the total expenditure since 1872 from how it was deemed best that the money at all sources in respect of the railways aided

ter upon which there was a good deal of Again—the statute law of the Province discussion before Mr. Sandfield Macdon-was in a state of chaos when we took of-

> RAILWAY EXPENDITURE. Unfortunately, however, in setting aside

cil. Representatives from the two Provinces met, and we ultimately cettled upon a case containing all that in the judgment of a century before, and from that day until we solved it the difficulty of the solution had been increasing (Hear, hear.) In 1872 the Municipal Loan debts, with the interest upon them, amounted to something like twelve millions of dollars. Municipalities which could have paid and ought to have paid, and had no sort of equitable or just defence to paying, had not paid. Some of these who were owing very large sums to the fund had been for twenty years with- and fund had been for twenty been fund had been for twenty been fund sion, as well as consolidation. And so we ters they gave way to him. There must disposed of this very important matter; always be compromises of that kind in such and the people are now enjoying the results of the work.

A Government, and those who knew Mr. Macdonald well in the olden time can have little doubt that this error was one of the worked with great public advantage. In the first session after Mr. Sandtield Macresources of the country and in augment ing its wealth, induced the Legislature to increase the appropriationforrailwaysfrom \$1,500,000 to \$1,900,000, and also to apways \$2,035,960. (Cheers.) These payments were all made to railways which had the same roads seven millions of dollars the amount which the Government has so of new railway in various parts of the Pro-

WHY THE DEPRESSION FELL LIGHTLY

The period during which this large