

ASSESSMENT AND POPULATION.

The assessment and population of the City are the next points touched upon by Mr. Stewart. Now, firstly, I claim that the increase in the assessment is largely due to the annexation of New Edinburgh, which was consummated before Mr. Stewart came into office; and secondly, I am pleased to know that Mr. Stewart was personally able in one year to increase the population of Ottawa by the round number of 800. I know that I could not do so, and I assure you I would not undertake it.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Concerning the Finance Department, Mr. Stewart in his address fails to give even an indirect opinion. He keeps shy of the question in the following language:—

“As the yearly financial statement will not be in readiness until the 15th January next, I am not prepared to forecast the exact financial position, but the ratepayers will have the gratifying reflection of knowing that the money has been judiciously devoted to works of a substantial character, and to much-needed permanent improvements.” He is not prepared to tell the electors what the financial statement for this year is, and dismisses the subject with the simple remark that “the ratepayers can rest assured that the money has been judiciously expended. (Laughter.) Now that is for the electors to decide, and I hope they will decide wisely when I tell them that the expenditure this year is over \$40,000.00 in excess of the appropriations, or in other words a mortgage of \$40,000.00 over the income of the year is placed on your properties; and the query is, “Where has the money gone to, or what have we got to show for it?” Here is a memorandum of expenditures and receipts:—