

they, by Ottawa; we are threatened by ourselves. According to them, the question is not whether Provincial autonomy should be protected, but whether we should save a few dollars to the detriment of the night schools, colonization, railways and other subjects of public interest.

Let us briefly examine this pretension of our adversaries and see what truth there is in their charge!

DEFICITS AND SURPLUSES.

In order to turn public attention from the questions which should be submitted to it, our adversaries have started and are keeping up the cry of extravagance and asserting that we are driving the Province to bankruptcy. Drive, they say, the present Ministers from power, and you will see that our charges are truthful. Drive them from power, say they, if you wish to avoid direct taxation.

And yet the men using this language are the same who ruled from 1867 to 1887, during twenty years, with the exception of a few months, during which Mr. Joly was in power, and during that time they created a debt of twenty millions, and changed surpluses into deficits which they piled up to the extent of over two millions from 1875 to 1887.

And yet since we have come to power, we have changed deficits into surpluses, and greatly improved the situation under this head as under all others.

When our adversaries were in power, they denied the existence of the deficits, which are now proved beyond question by the official documents, prepared under their own direction, and by officers appointed by themselves.

Since we have been in power, they deny that there are surpluses, and yet those surpluses are officially established with as much official certainty as were their deficits.

Their statements therefore on this head were false, and are officially contradicted by their own documents.

Their statements to-day on the same head are just as false. They are contradicted by the public documents. They are contradicted by a man like the Hon. Mr. Shehyn. Everyone knows the present Treasurer, everyone admits that he is an honorable merchant, whose signature is worth gold, and whose word is respected. He has risen gradually but surely in public estimation, and has attained the position he now occupies, thanks to his assiduity and irreproachable conduct.

Is it reasonable to think, is it fair to say, that such a man is knowingly deceiving the country? Clearly not, and it is not only our right, but our duty to believe his word.

INCREASED RECEIPTS.

Well, if the reign of deficits has ended, for there can be no doubt whatever of the existence of deficits before we came to power, the financial situation is improved. And if it is true that we are spending more, we have also received more since, notwithstanding the legitimate increase of expenses, we have a surplus. Before we came to power, the expenditure was lower, but there were constant deficits; since we have come to power the expenditure is higher, but we have constant surpluses.

Are the people going to prefer the men who spent little and indebted the Province, to those who spend more and run it into no debt?

Take the year expired on 30th June last, and what says Hon. Mr. Shehyn of it on page 10 of his budget speech of last session. He declares that the ordinary receipts amounted to \$3,628,184 and the ordinary expenses to \$3,543,618. He therefore affirms that the surplus amounted to \$84,565.56, and he adds: "The House and the country will therefore be happy to learn that the ordinary operations of the last fiscal year showed a surplus of \$84,565.56 notwithstanding the predictions of our adversaries, who, by means of skilfully manipulated calculations and figures, have sought to make out that the operations of the year have culminated in a large deficit."

Where is the honest man who will contest these assertions, made officially from his seat in the House, by a man like the Hon. Mr. Shehyn.

At page 11 of the same speech the present Treasurer adds: "In 1886, the year so much extolled by our friends of the Opposition, the ordinary receipts only amounted to \$2,949,562.15, while those of the year 1889 have come up to \$3,627,932.20, which shows an increase of \$678,082.05 over the year 1886."

If this be true, and who dare deny it, the increase of the expenditure is not only justified, since it does not compromise the financial situation and still leaves a surplus of receipts over expenses, but it has become necessary, because it is the indispensable condition of the