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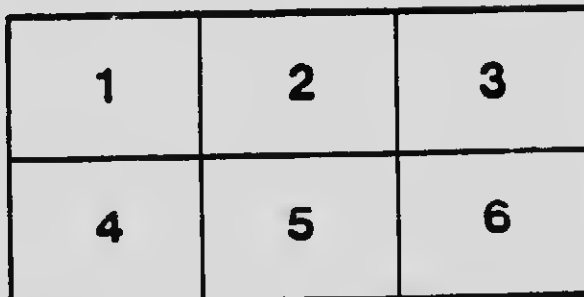
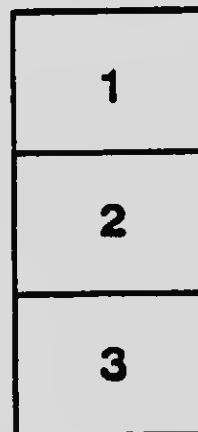
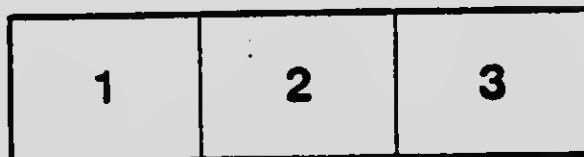
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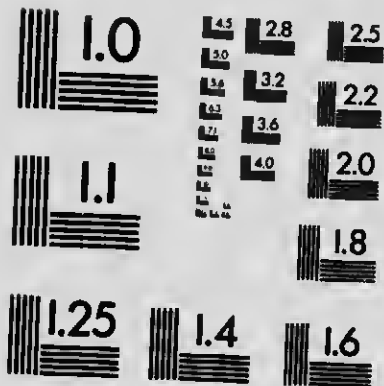
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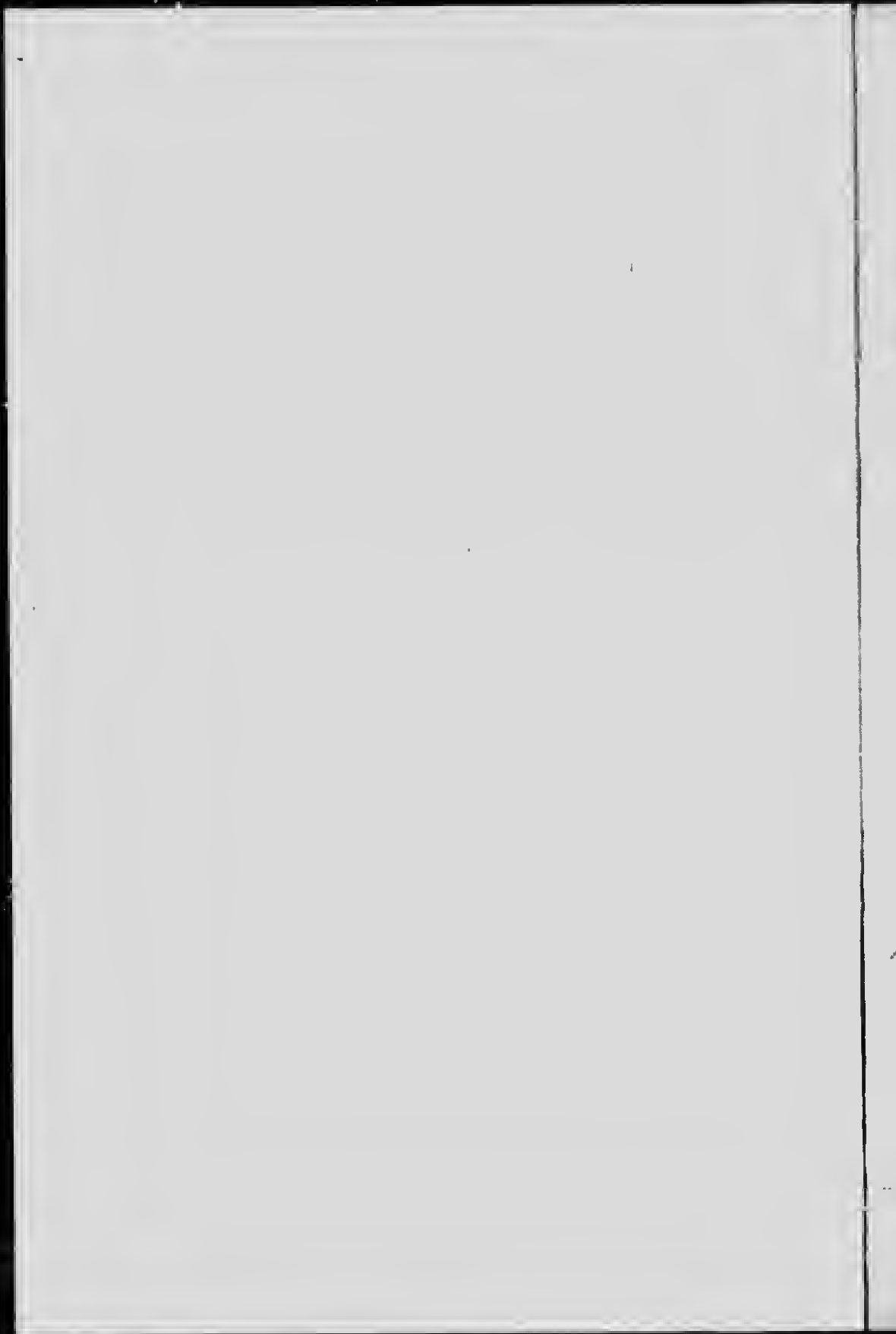
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THE SPLENDID RESULTS OF THE  
FORWARD POLICY OF THE LIBERAL  
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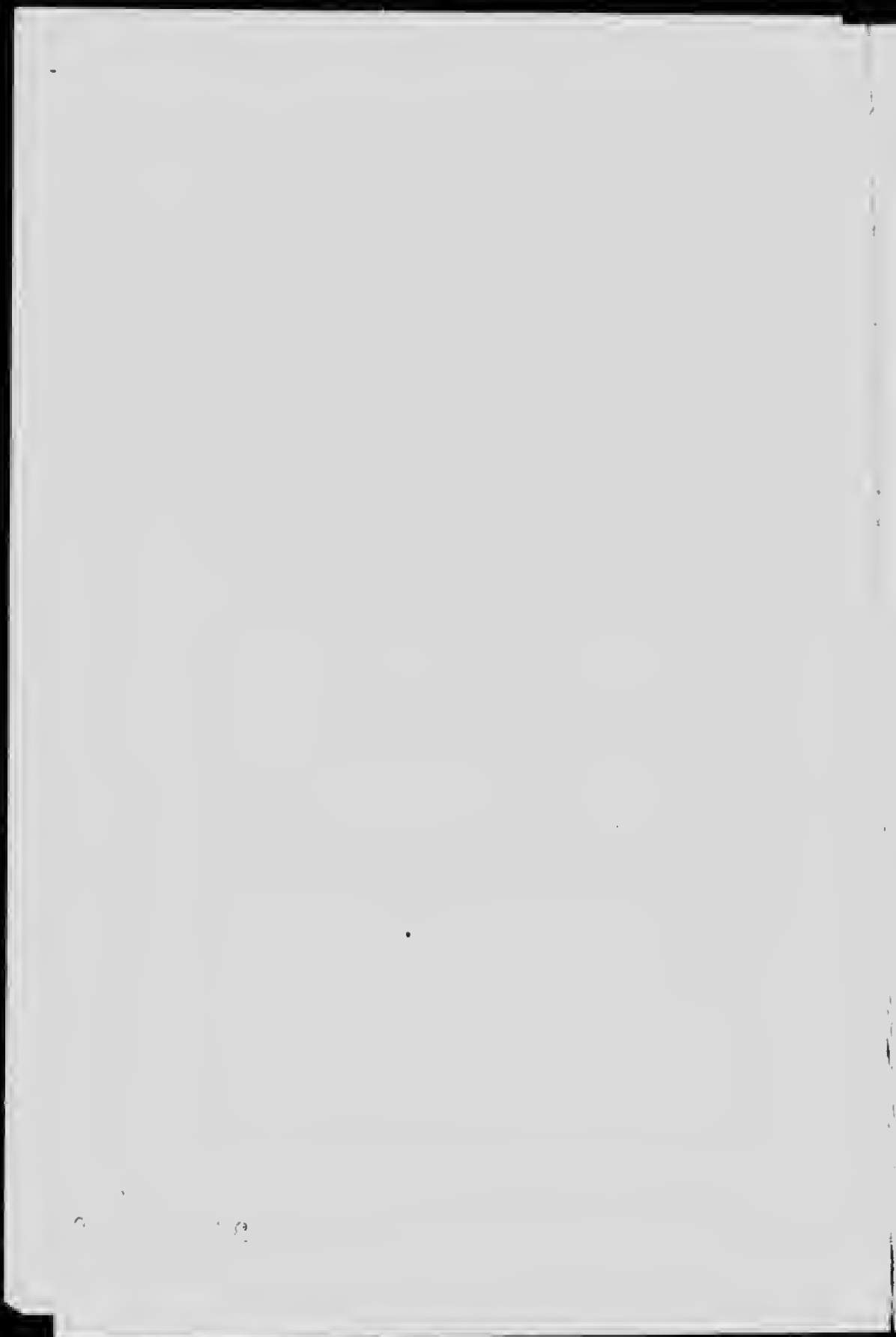
## A SPEECH

DELIVERED BY

**JAMES CONMEE, M.P.P.**

FOR ALGOMA WEST

DELIVERED IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE  
ON FEBRUARY 6th, 1902



# SPEECH OF JAMES CONMEE, M.P.P.

DELIVERED IN THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE  
ON FEBRUARY 6th, 1901

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Mr. CONMEE said: Mr. Speaker, the debate which is before this House has taken a very wide range, and I suppose it will continue to do so. I may say it is not my intention to detain the House at any great length on the Budget, as in view of the resolution which has been moved by my hon. friend from East Simcoe, (Mr. Miscampbell), the course of this debate may be somewhat changed. However, in view of the purport of that resolution, which hints, though in a vague way, at the undertaking of additional expenditures on the part of the Government, the finances of the Province become an important factor in considering it.

## **The Finances of the Province.**

Now, sir, I wish to say this in regard to our finances: that it appears to me we should cease having contentions in this House as to the correctness of our financial statement. The Budget as now brought down is so eminently fair in the public interests, and follows on the lines of the contentions put forward a few years ago by hon. gentlemen opposite to such an extent that all disputations should cease in respect to it. It is not in the interests of this Province that a factious dispute should continue from year to year. There is no good purpose to be served by such a course. I fully expected, when I saw the financial statement of the year on my desk, that my hon. friend from S. Lanark, (Col. Matheson) would be entirely satisfied with it, because, if I remember rightly, one of his claims in the past was that we should not say "surplus," that was a word which was prohibited on that side of the House; that if we said "assets" there would be an agreement. It seems, however, I was mistaken, for no sooner was it changed from "surplus" to "assets" than we find the same old arguments repeated.



**Origin of the Funds held by the Dominion for the Province  
and which became Debts due by the Dominion to  
Ontario at Confederation.**

I might remind the House of the origin of the funds in dispute. I take it that hon. gentlemen do not dispute the figures of the financial statement, other than the four so-called "trust funds." First, take the Upper Canada Grammar School Fund. That was created before Confederation by setting aside certain lands in the Province for the maintenance of Grammar Schools. It was settled, and \$312,769 was apportioned to Ontario when we joined Quebec in the old Province of Upper Canada. Then at Confederation that sum due to this Fund was one of the debts assumed by the Dominion as payable to Ontario, in respect of which they have since paid interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum. The same facts obtain with regard to the other funds. The Common School Fund was created in much the same way previous to Confederation by setting aside certain lands of the Crown, the proceeds of which were payable to this fund, and was one of the debts which the Dominion undertook to pay to the Province at Confederation. The Building Fund is a debt also payable by the Dominion; it, too, was created previous to Confederation by a Conservative Government, and by direct taxation—hon. gentlemen opposite or their predecessors, having thus the honor of being the founders of direct taxation in this Province. (Hear, hear.) A direct tax of six pence in the hundred pounds was imposed upon all taxable property in the Province to create a fund for the erection of asylums and other public buildings. The monies due this fund were one of the debts the Dominion undertook to pay and is included in paragraph 5 of the report of the arbitrators in 1870-1 as one of the debts due by the Dominion to this Province; and so with the Land Improvement Fund. It was merely taken out of the Public School Fund, one quarter of which was taken for *building* purposes. Now, these moneys were created from the resources of Ontario, and have always been and are still an asset of Ontario; these funds are as much an asset as are any other funds forming part of the consolidated revenue. At Confederation the Dominion assumed liabilities of the several Provinces to the extent of \$62,500,000; besides, over and above that sum, the British North America Act provides "that certain adjustments should take place as between the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and also as between these Provinces and the Dominion." Among the debts which the Dominion thus assumed and undertook to pay was the debt of the old Province of Canada to this Grammar School Fund, to the amount of \$312,769, and also the amounts over and above that sum due to the other funds I have mentioned. They have been called

trust funds and may in a sense be so called, but they are nevertheless debts due by the Dominion Government to the Province which they are bound to pay, and in respect to which, in fact, they have paid a considerable amount. It will not be disputed that a few years ago a payment of half a million dollars was made by the Dominion Government to the Province on account of moneys for which they are indebted to Ontario. Now, sir, as previously stated, the British North America Act provides "that arbitrators should adjust the accounts as between the Dominion and the Province," and in the proceedings Mr. Foster, the then Conservative Finance Minister of the Dominion, prepared in 1893 and submitted to the arbitrators, who were sitting to adjust these very accounts, a statement which is an exhibit in the reference, and is marked with the letter "Z," and filed in the proceedings. In it was given a statement of the debts of the old Province of Canada assumed by the Dominion, and in those debts are the several funds to which I have referred, including this Grammar School Fund. As I have stated, the British North America Act provided that arbitrators should be appointed to adjust the question as to which Province was entitled to these assets. In the Sessional Papers 1870-71 (Ontario) a report of the arbitrators is found, and they declare, with reference to this Grammar School fund, "*that the moneys thereby payable, including the several investments in respect of the same, or any of them, are, shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be the property of and to belong to, the Province of Ontario.*" All these funds are to be dealt with in the same way.

An authority the hon. gentlemen should accept—the Administration of John Sandfield Macdonald in 1869—put upon our Statute books legislation which declared that these moneys, and all moneys accruing therefrom, belonged to the consolidated revenue. The Acts of this House, passed in 1894 and in 1897, bring that legislation down to date. Now, sir, it does seem strange to me that in view of the arguments which we bear year after year on the floor of this House in regard to these funds that hon. gentlemen opposite did not, at the passing of these Acts, make the statements they now make; they were silent when these Statutes were being enacted by which these moneys were taken in and formed part of the consolidated revenues of the Province. It was not then held, as hon. gentlemen now do, that they were not funds that could be dealt with in that way; sir there was no word of protest at that time.

#### **The Availability of the Trust Funds.**

I do not, however, intend to detain the House with a long discussion in regard to the Budget. Perhaps the financial critic

of the Opposition (Col. Matheson), will agree with me in this: I would like to know if he would admit that the funds held by the Dominion are available if we desire to use them for the purpose of meeting our liabilities; we could certainly bond them if we did not draw them, so that they may be set off against the liabilities of the Province, leaving the difference in our favor. The liabilities amount to \$5,330,595.67, and the funds held by the Dominion amount to \$6,212,497.34, the difference being \$881,901.67. The Dominion has an unadjusted claim against us; the amount, however, falls below two million dollars. This, I think, is admitted on all hands, and in view of the large sum of interest which we receive annually, and the fact that interest on our liabilities is included in the figures given (and that there is no interest accumulating against us if we set them one against the other, it seems to me that would be a reasonable and safe proposition), it will be seen that the interest paid annually amounts to a sum more than sufficient to meet the entire annual payments of the Province on its liabilities for railway certificates and annuities; one is more than sufficient to offset the other. If that is not considered a fair proposition I would be disappointed in the hon. gentleman. I just pause to know if he would accept that.

Col. MATHESON: I would draw the attention of the hon. gentleman to the fact that the Act of 1894 deals with the Grammar School Fund, but that the Common School Fund remained a trust fund and still stands to the credit of the municipalities.

#### **The Interest Received From the Trust Funds.**

Mr. CONNOR: The Act of 1894 deals with the several funds—the investments and monies accruing therefrom, which must include the interest. We received interest on these funds, and, as I have said, the amount is more than sufficient to meet our annual payments on the railway certificates and annuities, and I contend that we might offset one against the other. The hon. gentleman shakes his head. Well, I will try again to reach an agreement with my hon. friend—it would be so nice to have this question settled. Will my hon. friend admit that the statement of our liabilities is correctly given? If this be admitted and I assume it is, they amount for railway certificates to \$92,248.19, and for annuities to \$102,900.00, making for this year a total of \$195,148.19, gradually reducible year by year until at the end of forty years, they will fall to the small sum of \$12,196.43, when they will be entirely wiped out. Now, sir, we have been receiving annually as interest for some years past a sum of \$225,000 or over, that has been paid by the Dominion Government on the debts due by the Dominion to the Pro-

vince. Will my hon. friend not admit that the interest alone on these debts due us by the Dominion, *which will be perpetual if we do not draw the principal*, amounts to a sum more than sufficient to meet every cent of our liabilities, and leave us a handsome margin each year for general purposes? The hon. gentleman can call the funds by any name he pleases—this fact remains, and cannot be successfully disputed. Well, Mr. Speaker, that still leaves us the full surplus claimed by the Treasurer.

Col. MATHESON: The money that is marked as interest in the payments last year received from the Dominion, is an increased subsidy of \$94,000 that the Dominion would have to pay if the sums owing by the Province to the Dominion were less than \$2,000,000. Although the interest on the sum thus owing would be \$90,000, the Dominion retains from us \$120,000.

Mr. CONMEE: My hon. friend must be perfectly well aware that for many years we have received over \$200,000 annually on account of this interest. This is merely an omission so far as 1901 is concerned: the interest paid so far in 1901 is in respect of the Grammar School Fund—a fact which shows my hon. friend is wrong in his contention. He is not inclined to answer my question. It will be seen that the amount paid annually reaches a sum more than sufficient to meet the interest and principal in respect to the liabilities of the Province for Railway certificates and annuities.

Col. MATHESON: The Act of 1897, to which the hon. gentleman makes reference, was merely a matter of bookkeeping and does not affect the question.

Mr. CONMEE: It was not merely a matter of bookkeeping; it was the solid concrete legislation of this House, just as much as any other measure passed by it. But if my hon. friend is determined to call it a method of bookkeeping, then I must leave him to enjoy his own opinions. The proposition I make is an eminently fair one, in view of the fact that, whether they are called trust funds or not, we receive from that source more than sufficient to pay all the indebtedness falling due year by year, and have still \$881,900.00 left, and if we add to that our bank balances and direct investments, we have the exact sum claimed as a surplus. (Ministerial applause.) I do not intend to detain the House with any lengthy observations in regard to the financial statement, but, as I have just stated, it is quite reasonable to remind hon. gentlemen of these facts. I believe we have arrived at a time when, in the public interests, this ancient discussion that we have from year to year should cease.

### Fair Criticism Versus Insinuations.

Now, hon. gentlemen have been making insinuations, and for reasons I shall give presently. They are not entitled to claim that there is anything wrong in regard to the financial statement, nor are they entitled to criticise it in the manner in which they have been criticising it. We, on this side of the House, have a right to expect fair criticism and we are always ready to accept it. It is not fair criticism, however, to say that if you take out so many dollars, that so many are left. That is school-boy criticism. (Ministerial laughter.) We certainly know that if you take \$500,000 from the aggregate of the surplus, you will have that much less. You could walk into the office of any financial institution in this country, or of any of the great corporations, and take their books and figure these concerns to be bankrupt on the basis of the criticism which is levelled against the statement submitted to this House by the Provincial Treasurer. It is not even clever. (Ministerial applause.) Anyone could do it. I do not wish to pursue that argument any longer, but I would like to refer to the criticism offered by the hon. member for Centre Grey, which was not fair. I do not think that that hon. gentleman has enhanced his reputation in this House or the country by saying that there may be maladministration, or wrongful appropriation of funds; in fact, the hon. gentleman insinuated that there may be dishonesty, that these funds may not be appropriated or applied for the purposes of the Province, that they may be wrongfully directed into the pockets of certain individuals. Sir, I take it that wrongdoing is to be proved, not insinuated. (Ministerial applause.) The resources of this House are just as great and as efficient for the investigation of these matters as are the resources of any House or Parliament on the American continent, and certainly as any in this Dominion. Hon. gentlemen have no right either in this House or in the country to cast insinuations of that character until they have investigated them, and until they have exhausted the resources of this House for so doing. And not then unless they have proved their charges. (Ministerial applause.) My hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) has pointed out the machinery which exists for the investigation of these matters. That, I think, is but a reasonable reference to the argument which was presented to the House by the hon. member for South Grey. I do not think he has done himself credit in the reference he has made and insinuations he has cast out without a shadow of evidence. The hon. gentleman has made no attempt at evidence, merely making broad insinuations which he dare not put in a written statement and make as a direct charge, with a demand for investigation. (Ministerial applause.) Until something of that character is done,

that class of criticism should cease. But the hon. gentleman has admitted the uselessness of the Opposition, and perhaps the hon. gentleman is a better judge of what their capabilities are than myself, but if it is a fact, as the insinuations which have been thrown out might lead the public to believe that there is wrongdoing, and that hon. gentlemen with all the resources of this House at their command cannot unearth it and expose the wrongdoer, then, sir, what excuse is there for their existence as an Opposition, and how can they expect the country to put them in office when upon their own statement they are unable to expose wrongdoing, even if it did exist. Sir, it seems to me the hon. gentleman has made a low estimate of the ability of that side of the House, but I assume we must accept it.

#### **The Western Dairy School.**

Now, sir, I pass to other considerations in the public affairs of this Province. I disagree entirely with the position taken by my hon. friend who has just taken his seat (Mr. Carnegie). I may refer to his remarks for one moment. Let me take one instance of how unfair the hon. gentleman has been. In criticising the western dairy school, I would like to point out to him that he is referring to a state of affairs of more than twenty years ago, when it was first opened. I should like to tell the members of this House, as the hon. gentleman did not tell them, although I must assume that he knew of it, that to-day there are 50 pupils in that school. The School of Practical Science, which was formerly in charge of the leader of this House, Hon. G. W. Ross, when he was Minister of Education, was opened with 11 students. To-day there are nearly 300 students there. I just mention this to show that great changes have taken place in these institutions. They have to grow with the requirements of the country—the people are taking advantage of them. They are serving a good purpose.

#### **The Rights of Settlers on Crown Lands.**

The hon. gentleman made some remarks in respect to Crown Lands, mentioning alleged complications and difficulties, where the settlers have gone on lands that are covered by existing timber licenses. The settler is not deceived as to the conditions in this regard. He knows, as every settler knows, that when he goes on to these lands these complications may follow as a matter of course and that the licensee has some rights. Therefore the settler is not wronged. He goes there and chooses to take that in preference to any other. But the impression that might be left by my hon. friend's remarks is that these conditions are general throughout the Province. He is not right in

that respect. The conditions to which the hon. gentleman refers can exist only as to limited areas covered by timber berths sold by the Sandfield McDonald Government without proper safeguards such as are now inserted in all conditions of sale of timber areas—a Tory legacy left to us for which this Government are not responsible. The impression, I repeat, the hon. gentleman's remarks would leave upon the House and the country is that these conditions of which he complains are general throughout the Province. Sir, there are thousands and millions and very many millions of acres of good agricultural lands in this Province opened to the settler entirely free from any complication of the character complained of in respect to which there is no interference of any agency outside the Crown. I have the honour to represent a part of New Ontario, and the settler there gets all the timber, not on 80 acres but on 160 acres. He not only gets the pine that the hon. gentleman speaks of, but all the timber and the minerals—everything on the land.

Col. MATHESON: He does not get the minerals.

Mr. CONMEE: Yes, he gets everything. I am referring now particularly to the Rainy River District. He gets everything when he gets the patent. There is no reserve of timber. I am not so certain with regard to the minerals.

Mr. KIDD: The Commissioner has informed us that he does not get the pine.

Mr. CONMEE: The hon. gentleman is wrong. He does not get the pine before he gets his patent, except such as he requires for his own use, but he gets it after he gets the patent—all the timber on his property, pine included.

Mr. KIDD: Perhaps it is all gone before he gets the patent?

Mr. CONMEE: Not at all, very seldom. I never knew of a case with complications such as the hon. gentleman mentions.

Mr. WHITNEY: What explanation did the Commissioner of Crown Lands give the hon. gentleman just now?

Mr. CONMEE: The Provincial Secretary says that I am mistaken with regard to the minerals.

Mr. WHITNEY: But what did the Commissioner of Crown Lands say?

Mr. CONMEE: He did not make any remark to me. The hon. gentleman is wrong as usual. (Ministerial laughter.)

I was just going to call the attention of the House to this, that the Mines Act provides a safeguard for the settler so far as the minerals are concerned. They cannot be taken away from him. If they are discovered on his land, he is to be paid so much damages if any of his land is taken. More than that, he gets a certain vested interest in the mines. I do not know of any case arising out of that, but I think these regulations are a perfect

safeguard for the settler in respect to the free grant land in the mining sections.

### **The Manufacturing Clause in Timber Licenses.**

I may just remind hon. gentlemen of another point that is in dispute between hon. gentlemen in this House. I refer to the remarks which fell from the hon. gentleman from S. Lanark. A great deal of credit was taken to his party, not only in this House, but in the country, for forcing, as he said, the Government of the day to adopt the manufacturing clause in respect to our timber resources. I dispute that proposition, and point out that long before hon. gentlemen made a motion in this House in regard to that matter, the Government had actually brought down regulations and sold certain timber berths with the manufacturing provision as part of the conditions of the sale. This was done in 1890, long before hon. gentlemen made any move in the matter, long before they can show one single resolution, or one single utterance on the public platforms of this country or in this House in respect to that matter. And I may give a little further illustration. I hold in my hand another piece of evidence of what was the policy of hon. gentlemen, or their leaders at all events, at that date. I have here the question asked in the Dominion House in 1890 by Mr. White, M.P. for Renfrew, at one time Speaker of that House. The question was, "whether, in the event of the United States Congress reducing the import duty on sawn lumber to \$1.00 per thousand feet board measure, the Government of Canada will remove the export duty on pine and spruce logs." Sir John A. Macdonald, then the Premier of Canada, replied: "I will answer that question. In the event of the United States Congress reducing the import duties on sawn lumber, the Government will remove the export duty on pine and spruce logs. I will take the opportunity of conveying that decision to the proper authorities." The proper authorities were at Washington, and the decision was conveyed there, and twenty-five days later the Government of the Dominion, the Conservative Government, the leaders of hon. gentlemen opposite, did remove the export duty on sawlogs. So that their policy in respect to that question in 1890 was undoubtedly the policy which I have outlined. It might be claimed they were then looking to Washington; but let us take another condition in that respect. What was the condition of the sawlog question at that time? The export of sawlogs previously had been very light. There had been no great quantity of logs exported from this country down to 1893. It had not reached 40,000,000 feet. In 1893—that was three years after this Government had adopted their manufacturing conditions, as I have shown, in the sale which took place in 1890



—it is true that in 1893 the export of logs expanded to something over 200,000,000 feet. But in the next year it fell down to 174,000,000 feet. The figures for the several years are :

1889.....	13,400,000
1890.....	25,000,000
1891.....	13,632,000
1892.....	39,073,000
1893.....	236,432,802
1894.....	248,746,314
1895..	174,503,845
1896.....	238,050,651
1897.....	219,026,825
1898.....	156,750,000

In 1891 the price of dues had been raised 25 per cent. There was a sale in 1892, and in view of this increase of price and certain pending regulations as between Ottawa and Washington the conditions respecting manufacturing were not included in the sale of that year, but a small area passed into the hands of Americans as the result of that sale, so that I think we are fairly entitled to claim that the best interests of this country were fully safeguarded by this Government in regard to our timber resources. It is true that, in 1893, years behind as usual, hon. gentlemen did move a motion which aimed at the manufacturing conditions in respect to the timber of the Province, but that was an objectionable motion.

#### **An Objectionable "Trick" Motion.**

I want to point out to them the conditions under which it was moved. It was moved on a motion to go into supply when, under the Rules of this House, there could be no amendment to it. It was one of those motions which hon. gentlemen opposite think it their privilege to move in this House. It was not a motion, in my humble opinion, that they expected would receive the sanction of this House; it was not a motion that hon. gentlemen on this side of the House could vote for. It had two very objectionable features; one, that no timber could be disposed of except with the sanction of the Legislature. That meant that before any timber sale could take place, no matter what the public demands might be, the Legislature had to be called and pass upon the transaction. How could we do business under such a system as that? The public interest requires that for public purposes and for construction purposes, as well as for the development of this country, that certain areas be put up for sale in order that the timber may be utilized for the public services. Fires take place, when it is necessary in the public interest that the burnt timber be sold, otherwise it becomes a great loss and a

menace to other standing timber. There is not a gentleman in this House, who has any knowledge of timber, but who knows that hundreds of millions of feet of timber have been lost to this Province because it has been burnt in inaccessible sections in years gone by, where it could not be sold as burnt timber has been in the last eight or ten years. We now, as a general rule, get a considerable benefit even from burnt timber. The Legislature cannot be convened for all such emergencies. Sir, I contend that this was not a practical or reasonable proposition, and we were perfectly justified in voting against it.

There was another objection, one that amounted to non-Inter-Provincial trade—that there was to be no commercial intercourse between the Provinces of the Dominion. Under that resolution our logs could not go to Quebec or to Manitoba to be manufactured. I doubt very much if hon. gentlemen themselves would be prepared to support that principle now. They have presented other resolutions since then; but hon. gentlemen have received light on the subject, and they do not now go as far as in 1893. The logs are not to be manufactured in the Province alone, but in Canada. Therefore, I claim that, so far as the saw-log question is concerned, the course of the Administration is perfectly clear; that they took the proper course in the public interest. There was no serious export of logs previous to 1893, as has been shown, except for one or two years, and the regulations came into effect in 1897. Hon. gentlemen can get very little comfort, I take it, out of the contention that their leaders are deserving of the credit for the regulations made in respect to the disposal of the timber of the Province. The facts are against them; it is an idle boast. They simply adopted what was the policy of the Government. They thought that was a good policy, that there was something in it, and a little too late, three or four years behind the time as they always are, they moved this resolution of 1893. It was such a resolution, I repeat, that they knew perfectly well could not receive the sanction of the majority of this House. It was not intended as a motion that could be carried. If it was such an important question as they now regard it, they should have thrown their party feelings to one side, and submitted an honest motion to this House, fairly drawn, so that the members could have supported it irrespective of party consideration or advantage. The tactics of hon. gentlemen on this question does them no credit.

#### **Water Power and Electrical Transmission.**

Now, I must say that I am a little surprised at the motion of my hon. friend for Simcoe (Mr. Miscampbell), having regard to the record of that hon. gentleman in this House. It involves,

if I am not mistaken, a new departure on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite. I cannot say, speaking for myself, that I agree with it. Now, what is the motion? I take it for granted that we are to embark into two lines of enterprise that we have not embarked in before. First, we are to go into the water power development, and the transmission of electricity, and we are to dispose of these products at cost. I was more than surprised that the one member of the House who was picked out to move this resolution was the member for Simcoe, particularly in view of the fact that that hon. gentleman is looking for election in one of the western constituencies. I find, however, that that is not the only motion he has moved. I could refer to several but will not go into details at this juncture. Hon. gentlemen who are here representing the interests of this great city of Toronto, and who have some little interests of their own to serve, like to have some one pull the chestnuts out of the fire for them, manufacture these motions, at least, that is the suspicion I have; they want to give them an air of respectability, and they select my friend from Simcoe, who is a good-natured man and an agreeable gentleman, and get him to help them by tendering these motions, and I fear the hon. gentleman does so without considering the effect it will have in regard to himself. I am inclined to think that it was unfortunate for himself, as he will no doubt learn before returning to this House. I was also surprised at the speech which he made on the motion. The hon. gentleman pointed out to us that we had something great in this country, a monopoly of nickel. I do not agree with his view. The production of nickel is not confined to Ontario. It is produced in New Caledonia, Germany, the United States, France and Spain, but the great bulk of the nickel, I admit, is produced from the ores of Canada and New Caledonia. My hon. friend says we have nickel, iron and other ores at Sudbury and in the West and a great water power at Niagara Falls, and that the latter should be developed and utilized for certain purposes. The object, judging from his speech, is to transmit the power to the mining districts or to take the ores down to Niagara Falls. Either proposition is not very practicable. Why take it to Niagara Falls and pass other water powers on the way, a number of which are in operation?

Mr. WHITNEY: The hon. gentleman does not understand the question at all. Until he does, he will be as wide of the mark as he is now.

Mr. CONMEE: I was in the House when the hon. gentleman (Mr. Miscampbell) made that part of his speech and I heard what he said. He left the impression on my mind, and on the minds of other hon. gentlemen, I am sure, that one of these two condi-

tions should prevail. (Ministerial applause.) I think the hon. member from South Toronto (Mr. Foy) agrees with me. I noticed him smile when the hon. gentleman (Mr. Miscampbell) who moved the motion, referred to this great development which was to build up the greater city of Toronto at the expense of Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie. Why did the motion not refer to Sault Ste. Marie? Millions of money have been spent on the development of as great, or nearly as great, a water power at that place as we have at Niagara Falls. I quite understand that the motion is not confined exclusively to Niagara Falls. It may be construed to cover also other places on the Niagara River, but I do say that the reference in the hon. gentleman's speech was entirely to Niagara Falls, and I ask again why pick that out especially? Perhaps we shall get a little light on the subject later on, but I was referring to Sault Ste. Marie.

#### **The Government's Policy re Water Powers.**

I have before me a copy of the regulations dealing with water powers—regulations made by this Government, and under which the public interests are safeguarded. No one has been given a monopoly of any water power. Anyone can go and demand power from a Company, and the Company are bound to give it at a reasonable price, or it may be settled in case of dispute by arbitration.

Col. MATHESON: It was the Dominion, not the Province, that gave us the Sault Ste. Marie power privileges.

Mr. CONMEE: The hon. gentleman is absolutely mistaken. (Ministerial applause). I have been closely connected with that company in the building of that undertaking, and I know where the privileges come from. They come from the Government of this Province. (Renewed applause). The Dominion had nothing to do with it. The power that the Dominion has is still running over the rapids undeveloped, because they have not taken advantage of the situation. (Long continued applause). All our water powers are disposed of under these conditions. No one has any favors.

Well, I desire to say that there is nothing new in the resolution. It is true that the Government has not embarked in the development of water power, or the transmission of electricity. Whether they should do so or not, and whether it would be in the public interest for them to do so in certain sections I am not prepared to say. But it would be very strange if they did so at Niagara Falls in view of the conditions safeguarding the public interests which now exist, and the vested interests they would destroy by giving competition with public money at cost. In such a contingency are we to compensate those who would be

injured? We have been discussing the development of the resources of the country in this House for many years, and we have never heard or had any resolution on the subject from our friends opposite until this year. (Ministerial applause). I would like to point out also that the hon. gentleman on that side of the House, the mover of the motion under review, has not told us what we are to do. He has not placed before the House any scheme by which we could develop these powers. He has not said what sum of money we should take from the consolidated revenue for the purpose—that was to be expected. (Ministerial laughter).

### **The Vagueness of the Opposition Platform.**

Hon. gentlemen opposite say that they intend to reduce the taxation, to take off some of the small taxation we have put on the great corporations; nay, more, it is contended that they will also be able to reduce the expenditure generally. At the same time hon. gentlemen also claim that they would give a greater development along certain lines, and particularly in the newer sections of the country; they even claim they will build up the resources of the country, and still be able to cut down the expenditure and reduce taxation, but they fail utterly to show how they will do it. (Renewed laughter). Yet they have not told us where they are going to cut down the expenses, or what corporations they would relieve from taxation. One hon. gentleman says that they are going to cut off some of the officials—useless officials, he called them. That is not a fair argument. If there are any unnecessary officials in this Province, hon. gentlemen should have the courage to point them out. I do not think that there are any officials that the people have not asked for, whose services are not required, and who have not been petitioned for. I do not know of a case where the Government has not been pressed hard and long before these appointments were made.

Now, if there are unnecessary officials, if there are unnecessary expenditures, there are resources of investigation which the hon. gentlemen have at their disposal. Now and here is the time to meet us face to face, and prove their assertions; if they fail to do this we should not hear of it on the hustings. If that condition of things exists, now is the time to investigate it. (Hear, hear.) It is just so with regard to other expenditures to which I will refer in a moment.

### **Encouraging the Mining Industry.**

My hon. friend (Mr. Miscampeli), the mover of the motion, made some remarks about the smelting business. I do not think

I am quoting him wrongly. I would be glad to be put right if I am placing the member from Simcoe in a false position. I think he spoke of the smelting of iron and nickel and other ores by the power at Niagara Falls. Let me point out that we have customs smelters in this province, and hon. gentlemen themselves were, I am free to say, parties consenting to one of these. In the vote which was taken for the Manitoulin and North Shore Railway, provision was made for a customs smelter. The Government has already taken steps in that connection, and in the Sudbury and Soo Districts have already provided for the establishment of a smelter to assist the prospector or mine owner to obtain a ready and speedy return on his ores. Nay, more, there has been legislation on the Statute books of this country for ten years which places within the power of every municipality, every town in the country, such for example as Sudbury, or other localities of that character, that choose to avail themselves of it, to have to a considerable extent the advantage of a smelter for the treatment and testing of the ores of their particular localities. I refer to the Mining Schools Act, by which the Government agrees to give one-half the cost of mining schools established in any particular locality. Now, I take it for granted that hon. gentlemen will agree that if we are to embark in any expenditure in the direction of establishing smelters, in the direction of mining development, we cannot do better than, so far as practicable, make them educational institutions, just the same as we are advancing our agricultural interests by the establishment of agricultural colleges, the dairy schools, and the other institutions which we have organized to advance the interests of the agriculturists. Just so we can advance the interests of the mining men, and legislation such as I have referred to has already been introduced, of which Kingston has taken advantage. There is an institution there where the ores of that particular locality may be treated, gold or other ores from anywhere in the Province, are treated and treated successfully. We have at Rat Portage not one, but two Customs smelters, which have been established for some years, treating the ore of the miner and prospector so that he can receive his return. It is strange indeed that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Miscampbell) should have been asleep for a long time—I cannot understand it any other way. The hon. gentleman visited some portions of western Ontario some years ago, and had not seen much to arouse his interest, but within the last year or two he has been ashore and has found something going on; he has discovered that there is something moving in the West, and, like Rip Van Winkle, wakes up, not at Sault Ste. Marie, where he is a candidate, but at Niagara Falls. (Laughter.)

### Progress is Being Made.

I do not say that everything has been done that could have been done; far from that. I do not suppose there is any branch of the public service in this Province—our educational or public institutions or agricultural interests—where we have done all that we will do. As time goes on we will no doubt accomplish much more. I regret we have not accomplished more in mining development, but what I point out is this: the address of the hon. gentleman would convey to the House, and to the country, the idea that a new discovery had just been made, that something that has not been thought of before was thought of in this resolution and sprung upon the country. These matters have been going on, perhaps not as fast as some of us—I myself—would wish to see, but we have been moving in the public interests. Hon. gentlemen take a great deal of credit for developing New Ontario, and one of the arguments is that they are entitled to special credit for the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Well, Mr. Speaker, I dispute that proposition. The Canadian Pacific Railway was a compact of Confederation, and neither Party in this Province has any right to take special credit for it. (Opposition members, "Oh! Oh!") I profess to know something about the Canadian Pacific Railway history, and I am speaking what I believe to be correct, and what I believe they will agree with before I finish.

Mr. WHITNEY: Another new discovery.

Mr. CONMEE: Not at all; a little more light, that is all. Let me say that no party in this country has ever opposed the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. I am prepared to meet any hon. gentleman either on the floor of this House, or elsewhere, to discuss that point. No party has ever opposed the construction of that railway. The Dominion of Canada was committed to it as a nation. What has been opposed, and what was at certain times opposed by Liberals, was the method by which it was built. I will tell you more, that Alexander Mackenzie did more during the term of his administration to advance the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway than did his predecessors in office for ten years previous. Under the Liberal Administration, the road was put under construction in the east, and from Lake Superior to Winnipeg, and from the south to Winnipeg. Hon. gentlemen's leaders did not, as they claim, build the Canadian Pacific Railway to advance the interests of New Ontario. I think I can prove that. They never intended that the section now known as New Ontario should belong to this Province; their leaders in this country were contending at that time that New Ontario belonged to Manitoba. (Ministerial applause.) For two or three years they voted to support the claim

of Ontario. Then something turned them around, some one took them by the ear, said they were going wrong, and that they should not say black was black, but that they should say white was black, and they did it. That is their history. They were not intending to develop New Ontario far from it; they cannot escape from that position.

#### **Where the Credit for New Ontario Belongs.**

The credit for New Ontario and its development belongs to this Government. It does not belong to the Conservative party, but to Sir Oliver Mowat's Administration, who rescued it from the hands of the leaders of hon. gentlemen opposite, and saved the great resources of that region to the Province of Ontario. (Ministerial applause.) Sir, I think if there is anything which hon. gentlemen should touch lightly, it is the Canadian Pacific Railway. The bargain with that Company was condemned, and strongly condemned, and is deserving of the greatest possible condemnation. The country has not forgotten, hon. gentlemen have not forgotten, the Pacific scandal by which their leaders tried to harter away the rights of Canada for money with which to corrupt the electors of this country. Where is there any safeguard in the contract which they made for the protection of the rights of the people? Not only did they give away a hundred million dollars, and lands sufficient to build the road, but they handed over the road as well to a private corporation. Up to that time the road belonged to the people of Canada, but by their Act the line was given over to the control of the Company, which was, as to services and rates, placed beyond any practical legislative control of the people of Canada. That is not a history that hon. gentlemen need to be proud of. If they want to claim credit for the conditions of the agreement with the Company in that regard they are welcome to it. (Ministerial applause.) There are other features, but I want to say here that the Liberal party since being returned to power at Ottawa, has done something to ameliorate the unsatisfactory conditions in which the people's interests were placed, and gain back a little of their rights for them, but it is far from satisfactory yet. When the Company was pressing for the Crow's Nest Pass there was something done to retain some control for public rights. But I point out that if ever there was a sacrifice or a neglect of the rights of the public on the part of an Administration, it was in connection with the C.P.R. I have nothing but words of praise for the enterprise of that great Company. They have given Canada a great service—they have done good to the country. But I have every condemnation to offer against those who were the sworn guardians of the public interests at that time, and who made a contract of the character to which I have re-



ferred. I contrast that with contracts that are made by this Administration, where every public interest is safeguarded and development stipulated for—no monopoly of rates, no locking up of lands. My hon. friend the Premier has not followed the example of the leaders of hon. gentlemen opposite; he has not been unmindful of the public interest. He has not given land grants without proper stipulations for their settlement, as did the leaders of hon. gentlemen opposite in the bargain with the C.P.R. There is hardly a feature in connection with that railway bargain of which the Conservative party has any reason to be proud. The Liberal party did not oppose the building of that railway, I repeat, as some hon. gentlemen have charged. What Sir Alexander MacKenzie and his followers opposed was giving it into the hands of a corporation without any conditions for the safeguarding of the public interest. Mr. Blake contended that some sections of the railway should be built in advance of more difficult sections of it, and operated before other sections. Conservatives say that this was a move in opposition to the line, but it was not; and although no such clause was put in the conditions, it was in a measure carried out in practice, the section between Port Arthur and Winnipeg being built first.

In a pamphlet issued in 1878, entitled "Speeches and Letters by the Hon. David Macpherson," the Mackenzie Administration is blamed, not for being too slow in the matter of the construction of the C.P.R., but for being too rapid. Their policy was criticised as reckless expenditure. They (the Conservatives) claimed that the building of the section of the road between Lake Superior and the Red River was premature, and advocated using the United States lines for our all-rail route to Manitoba and the Northwest. That, sir, was the Conservative policy in 1878, but I am not going to dwell on that subject; yet I do not wish hon. gentlemen to imagine or the country to understand that they are entitled to particular credit for the C.P.R. It is a great national enterprise, one of which all Canadians are proud, and which has the sympathy and good will of the people of Canada. Still, while that is the case, it does not at all take away the condemnation due to the men who made the improvident bargain and sacrificed the interests of the people of the country. (Ministerial applause.) Sir, I admit that later on the Conservative leaders did stand for speedy construction, and for that they may claim credit, but nothing more; both parties were committed to the building of the road.

#### **Colonization Roads and Transportation.**

My hon. friend who has just preceded me (Mr. Carnegie) has said that the Government should be more liberal and give larger

grants for colonization roads and for better means of transportation in the new sections, adding that greater prosperity would result. I think the hon. gentleman forgets his own record in this House, and some other gentlemen forget their own record also in regard to this question. I have in my hand a resolution proposed by Mr. Paterson (Conservative member for Essex) in 1877, who moved, seconded by Mr. Harkin, "that the 80th resolution, regarding colonization roads, be amended by substituting \$50,000 for \$77,300." This would have reduced the grant for colonization roads by \$27,300. Hon. gentlemen opposite heartily approved of that resolution, and that is a part of their record in regard to colonization roads. (Ministerial applause.) At a later period (1894) Mr. Campbell (Algoma East) moved, seconded by Mr. Miscampbell, (the hon. gentleman who is now nominated, I understand, for one of the new constituencies,) "that the resolution relating to the Crown Lands Department be not carried, but be forthwith referred back to Committee of Supply with instructions to reduce the grant of \$125,309 for Crown Lands to \$60,000, thus reducing the grant for the Crown Lands Department by \$65,309." Hon. gentlemen may claim that they did not strike at colonization roads in that resolution, because colonization roads are not mentioned. Well, Mr. Speaker, it is just as plain as anything can be that the appropriation for the expenditure of the Department of Crown Lands, which then had charge of colonization roads, could not be cut down by more than one-half unless it took away from colonization roads a very large proportion. (Ministerial applause.) It was merely a subterfuge on the face of it, and was in my opinion meant to strike a direct blow at colonization roads. It was so understood by the people of this country, and will be so understood by those who needed the roads. (Ministerial applause.) That is not all, Mr. Speaker; I have another resolution here. Not only was our friend and all hon. gentlemen opposite not willing to grant money for the construction of colonization roads (and, by the way, let me remind my hon. friend, who has just taken his seat, that he voted for the resolution which I have just referred to, and for this one, too), but another resolution was proposed in 1899—a much later period than the others, which dealt with several items that were before the House. Both my hon. friends have told us during the present session that they are friends of New Ontario, friends of the development of that country and of the Province, and if their party is returned to power they look for greater development than would be the case if the present Government was returned to power. In regard to this resolution of 1899, the item was not a very large one, but it just shows where hon. gentlemen stood. Mr. Jamieson moved, seconded by Mr. Duff, "that the amount of \$2,750,

being \$250 for Vaccine farm, \$1,000 for colonization pamphlets, and \$1,500 for Victorian Order of Nurses, be reduced to \$1,000." The colonization pamphlets was the main item struck at. (Ministerial applause.) Not only were they not willing to give aid to colonization roads, but they were not willing that \$1,000 should be expended to let settlers know that we had such a place as New Ontario, and yet they expect to have the confidence and support of the people of New Ontario, and the Province generally! This, sir, is a small matter, but it illustrates the sagacity and capacity of hon. gentlemen opposite. (Ministerial laughter and applause.) I may tell the hon. gentlemen, and I think I represent the sentiment of a very large proportion of the community, when I say that never will they have the support and confidence of their own friends in this Province while they pursue such tactics as these.

#### **The Opposition Record Against Surveys.**

That is not all. I have still another resolution here. Not only in regard to colonization roads are hon. gentlemen behind the times, but also in regard to the surveying of our unsurveyed lands. If the country is to be developed, it is necessary that the Administration must undertake some expenditures. I have a resolution in my hand which was moved by Mr. Clancy, and seconded by Mr. Miscampbell, in 1893. I regret that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Miscampbell) is not in his seat, because I think the remarks I made in opening, that he is too accommodating to others of his Party, holds good in respect to this resolution, at least I am suspicious that other gentlemen did not wish to be identified with it. I venture to say that the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Miscampbell) will not second or move a motion along the lines of any of these motions during the present session. New light has, I believe, come into his eyes—he no longer sees through a smoky glass. The hon gentleman moved, "*That the eighty-ninth resolution be not now agreed to but be referred back to a Committee of the House with instructions to amend the same by striking out the item of \$35,000 proposed to be voted for surveys of new townships in the new Districts.*" Every dollar is to be struck out. Sir, that is not all. Here is another motion moved in 1894 by Mr. Miscampbell, seconded by Mr. Clancy: "*That all the words in the motion after 'that' be struck out, and the following substituted therefor: 'That this House disapproves of the large expenditure which is made annually by the Crown Lands Department for surveys, amounting to upwards of \$35,000.'*" Now, sir, for the fifteen years I have been in this House, I have this complaint against hon. gentlemen opposite, that they have persistently opposed the development of the resources of

the new sections of the Province. Hon. gentlemen have opposed every measure looking in that direction. They claim to be in favor of development, yet invariably vote against it. Not only would they give less for colonization roads, and absolutely nothing for surveys or advertising, but we are not to get railway facilities. We are to get but little for the construction of colonization roads, we must not spend the small sum of \$1,000 for advertising the country, and we are not to survey the country which is to remain an unbroken forest. Sir, if there is anything I would condemn the Government for, it is that they have not been spending larger sums for surveying. I say there should have been large sums spent, and I hope to see large sums spent in the future. What excuse is there for holding 100,000,000 acres of land, much of which is as good as that now under cultivation in the Province, if we are not to even survey it? Why should the young men of the Province, who wish to know something about the resources of this country, not obtain that knowledge with respect to the unoccupied land of the Province we still possess, and which it is the duty of the Government to supply? If there is anything that is needed in this connection, if there is any expenditure which should be increased and largely increased, sir, it is for surveying this country, in order that we may inform the young men of the Province of the character of the country, and not have a map one-half of which has no proper information on it. Every settler should be able to get full information and learn what he may desire to know about any locality in this Province. There is no reason why we should not have much larger areas surveyed in this Province, and I do hope that the Commissioner of Crown Lands will not forget that there is a great country to the west and north which cannot be developed unless steps are first taken to survey it. Let us have it mapped—let us know something about it. That is expenditure which the people of New Ontario and old Ontario will endorse and sanction. I have yet to meet a man in old Ontario who is not prepared to say that, whatever is necessary to spend for the purpose of developing the resources of the country, this Government is fully justified in spending.

#### **The Advanced Policy of the Government Regarding New Ontario.**

I am glad that I am able to say what perhaps I never before was able to say here, that I am more heartily in accord with the present policy of the Government than I ever was before. (Ministerial applause.) Now, hon. gentlemen opposite claim they are the friends of New Ontario; that they are going to help us. I wish we could believe them. I am afraid I cannot believe them be-

cause their record does not agree with their pretensions or their professed policy. I do not wish to doubt hon. gentlemen; I would like to have confidence in the statements which I hear on the floor of this House, but when I look at the records of the House, at the different resolutions, I cannot accept the statements now made. What is their history? My hon. friend from Lanark (Col. Matheson) stated that if the young men of the country went into New Ontario there would be no place for them; that if they went to one locality they would be told that the railways have the land, and if they went to another, that the lumbermen have the land, or a claim on it, and to another, that the pulp companies have the land. The settler who goes there looking for trouble, is usually able to find it. I want to tell my hon. friends that there are hundreds and thousands and millions, many millions of acres of land there outside of the arcs connected with any railway, lumber or pulp company. I do not believe that there is hardship to any extent in that respect. Hon. gentlemen will not seriously contend that there is not provision for the settlement of lands included in any lumber license or pulp concession or railway grant. Hon. gentlemen claim they are in favor of the development of the resources of the country. How can development proceed without expenditure or encouragement by the Province which owns all the land. Is it not better to part with some of the land and secure development and prosperity rather than have the country an unbroken wilderness forever? Sir, the areas held by the companies referred to are but small. Besides, we do not lose it, the land is not carried away, it still remains in the Province. And, sir, as regards settlement we get as much advantage, or nearly so, as we could get if it still remained in the Crown. In the pulp agreements there is provision for the agricultural settler going in on the lands; that is absolutely under our control; and the same is the case in respect to lands under timber licenses issued by this Government. There is no check to settlement in either of these cases. Then in our railway grants, each alternate block remains in the Crown, and settlers going in have railway facilities, which they would not have if the encouragement had not been given the companies to construct. Besides, the areas the railways get are not locked up, as they are bound to secure settlers for the land or forfeit it. So that in all these cases the public interest is safe-guarded. We must let the lumbermen operate, otherwise we cannot build our homes, towns or cities. We want the pulp mills; they employ labor and enable the settler to sell his wood instead of burning it on the ground. We must have the railways or we can have no progress—they afford transportation. Without them the products of the settler cannot get an outlet, they are the avenues to

the market, alike necessary for the producer and the consumer. Sir, there were some timber areas put under licenses away back in the time of the Sandfield Macdonald and, I think, the Blake Administrations, in which there were not the provisions for settlement that are now inserted in all licenses. Questions touching vested rights have in consequence arisen, and the difficulties hon. gentlemen opposite refer to arise in respect to these areas only. The criticism goes too far, it is unfair. This Government is in no way to blame for the want of caution and foresight on the part of their predecessors in office over thirty years ago.

### **Conservative Opposition to the Ontario and Rainy River Railway.**

Hon. gentlemen profess now to be in favor of opening the newer sections of the Province. I fear it is a pretence on the eve of an election. If that was their disposition, why vote against the aid to the Ontario and Rainy River Railway, which is developing the country lying between the Canadian Pacific Railway and the southern border of the Province, and which will bring into the heart of Canada the productions of Manitoba and the West, which formerly went to the American seaboard. Why did they vote against that great enterprise?

Mr. WHITNEY: When?

Mr. CONMEE: Why, sir, the Company were knocking at the doors of this House for ten years for aid to build that railway.

Mr. WHITNEY: When?

Mr. CONMEE: I will point out when. The hon. gentleman is on record, he cannot escape. What I want to point out is that they were knocking at the door of the House for aid; they could not get it except in little patches, and finally had to tell the Government that the road could not be built unless it was aided from one end to the other. You cannot start it nowhere and end it nowhere. As a business proposition it would cost the country more in the end to aid it in that way. They wanted a fair and reasonable grant; they were pointing out that it could not be done with a little grant. For 12 or 15 years it had been before the public, before the Government, and before the hon. the leader of the Opposition. His friends pressed that view of it on his attention. The leader of the Opposition in 1894 voted for a motion to reduce by \$1,000 a mile the subsidy to that road. I say his motion, if carried, would have killed the railway. I have spoken in my constituency and I have never misrepresented him in that respect. I have pointed out exactly the motion which he made, that it was a vote hostile to that great enterprise, and if that vote had carried we would not have had that road to-day.

Mr. WHITNEY: The statement is still untrue.

Mr. CONMEE: I must ask my hon. friend to explain in what way it is untrue. I have here the motions which the hon. gentleman moved in 1899, on the third reading of the Bill (No. 253), relating to railway aid. It was moved by Mr. Whitney, seconded by Mr. Matheson, "*That all the words of the motion after the word 'that' be omitted, and the following substituted: 'the Bill be not now read the third time but be forthwith recommitted to a Committee of the Whole House with instructions to amend the same by striking out sub-section four thereof and substitute therefor the following, '(4)' to the Ontario and Rainy River Railway from Fort Frances to the mouth of Rainy River, a distance not exceeding seventy-five miles, a cash subsidy of \$3,000 a mile.'*" Sub-section (4) of Bill (253) provided for \$1,000 per mile aid to the Ontario and Rainy River Railway from its junction with the Port Arthur, Duluth and Western Railway to Fort Frances, a distance of 225 miles. This was in addition to the \$3,000 per mile previously granted. And \$4,000 per mile from Fort Frances to the crossing of Rainy River, making the grant \$4,000 per mile throughout. The effect of the hon. member's motion would have been to reduce the grant to the Ontario & Rainy River Railway by \$330,000. The statement is therefore perfectly true and I repeat it.

Mr. WHITNEY: I am satisfied.

Mr. CONMEE: Well, I am glad the hon. gentleman is satisfied. (Laughter.) That, sir, is not the only case. Here is another motion moved by the hon. gentleman against aid to the Haliburton, Whitney and Mattawa Railway. In this case Mr. Whitney moved, seconded by Mr. Marter, "*That all the words of the motion after 'that' be omitted, and the following substituted: 'The Bill be not now read the third time but be forthwith recommitted to a Committee of the Whole House with instructions to amend the same by striking out section three thereof.'*" That, sir, was the section of the Bill providing for aid to this railway to the extent of \$3,000 per mile that was to be cut out by the hon. gentleman's motion. That is not all; there are others. I have here another on the third reading of the same Bill (253). The hon. gentleman moved, seconded by Mr. Marter, "*That all the words of the motion after the word 'that' be omitted and the following substituted: the Bill be not now read the third time but be forthwith recommitted to a Committee of the Whole House with instructions to amend the same by striking out sub-section one thereof providing for a grant of \$2,000 per mile for a distance not exceeding 250 miles to the Ontario, Hudson's Bay and Western Railway.'*"

### Conservative Opposition to the Algoma Central Railway.

Then, sir, take the Algoma Central Railway. The hon. gentleman said during the session of 1900 that that was a colossal steal. I venture to say that the day will come when the hon. gentleman, if he continues in public life, will admit that that was one of the best measures ever voted for in the Legislature. (Ministerial applause.) I think the hon. gentleman is on record and I think that he cannot escape from that record. What are the conditions? The building of the Algoma Central Railway will be just as great a benefit to this country as was the Ontario and Rainy River Railway, now the Canadian Northern. However that may be I would like to know why hon. gentleman opposite opposed that great enterprise and then voted for the Manitoulin and North Shore Railway? (Ministerial applause.) I do not think that he was fair or consistent. Let us examine into the reasons for each of these votes. The Algoma Central Railway is a railway proposed to be built from Sault Ste. Marie to James Bay. It is a railway building into an entirely undeveloped and unexploited portion of this Province, where there had never been any development up to that time, except a few Hudson Bay traders' posts, and some little development at Michipicoten. It was a road that was infinitely needed in the public interest and one that it was thought all parties would have supported. It was going through an entirely unsettled part of the country, which, however, had great possibilities and interest for the people of this Province. When we come to treat the Manitoulin and North Shore Railway, we must admit that it, too, is a great enterprise, one of the roads, I believe, that will be of the greatest possible benefit to this Province. But it is going through a country that has been partly settled for, perhaps, fifty years. There is already settlement in many places and mining and agricultural development is going on along a great portion of the line, and, to my mind, of the two roads the one which is penetrating the new portion of the country, instead of the one which is penetrating an older and more settled portion, should have had the preference in the judgment of the members of this House, as it did have by members on this side. But we do not find that to be the case with hon. gentlemen opposite. We find that hon. gentlemen who had voted against the Algoma Central Railway and the grants of land to that Company, voted in favor of a larger land grant to the Manitoulin and North Shore line, which is penetrating a country that has some railway communication already, some settlement, and of a less necessity as regards local development than the former one. (Ministerial applause.) They took that action for the simple reason that the press of the country, the public opinion of



the country, so strongly endorsed the policy of the leader of this Government in regard to the grants which were made to the Algoma Central Railway the previous year, that the hon. gentlemen were forced by public opinion to vote that way. If I might venture a little further, I would say that perhaps some hon. gentlemen opposite were forced by their friends to vote that way because they found that it was necessary for political reasons to support the Manitoulin and North Shore road. (Ministerial applause.) I may be going too far. I do not wish to be understood as saying that they were not honest in their different votes, or that they did not intend to advance the interests of the country, but I will say that their action was open to suspicion. (Ministerial laughter.) In one case they were driven to it by public opinion, and in the other case they followed the policy that they have followed for so long in this House of opposing everything that the Government does and which, if they continue to follow, will assure them a position on that side of the House for the next twenty years. (Laughter and applause.)

#### **A Railway to James Bay.**

I wish to say a word in regard to the Algoma Central Railway, or some railway to James Bay, I care not whether it is the Algoma Central Railway system or another, although I must say that I believe that the gentlemen who are engaged in the construction of that railway are thoroughly in earnest. They have already expended six or seven millions of money in the construction of that road, and I have no doubt that in less than two years it will reach the shores of James Bay. (Ministerial applause.) This Province occupies a position which no other Province in this Dominion does, having on its northern border a seacoast port, and on its southern border the great chain of inland lakes fraught with great possibilities in regard to the welfare of our people. The resources of that great James Bay region are very little known. Our Government sent out prospectors some years ago, who found that there is a belt of land stretching from the Ottawa River to the western boundary of this Province, as good for agricultural purposes as is the land we have now under cultivation—well timbered, well watered and fit for agriculture. But that is not all. They found that we have in the belt south of the height of land a region containing the minerals found in the older parts of the Province, and some of which are now being mined to a great extent. The iron ores of Michipicoten and the gold ores are being mined and treated, and this removes our mineral resources in that section from the realm of speculation. We have there a mine (the Helen mine) which produced a great tonnage of ore last year, and which gives promise of greater possibilities

in the near future. Then, sir, we have another mining area. According to the report of the Geological Departmental explorers sent out from Ottawa (a report to which we have access), and from the report of other explorers, there is an extensive area on the James Bay coast in which minerals of economic value are found. We are told by the explorers that there are great quantities of iron ore, of copper, and of petroleum and other minerals that are of great value. But that is not all. There is another article there which is of special interest to Ontario, that is coal. Now, there may be some difficulties in utilizing some minerals in that region, and their development may take time, but we need the coal. I feel warranted in saying that there are immense areas of coal, but I cannot speak with certainty as to the quality or depth of these deposits. But it is beyond dispute that there are coal fields, and I believe them capable of development, capable of supplying for manufacturing purposes all the industrial interests of this Province; and that, too, sir, within twenty-four hours by rail from the mines to Lake Superior, instead of bringing the coal supplies from the United States, an advantage which will make a great difference in the mining and other industries of this Province.

#### **The Resources of Hudson's and James Bay.**

There are other interests. Let me point out one other matter of great value. Now, I may remind hon. gentlemen that James Bay and Hudson's Bay do not all belong to this Province, but they are accessible to this Province and to our trade and commerce. Now, sir, the area of these great waters is 500,000 square miles, which is more I believe, nearly three times as great, indeed, as that of the North Sea of Europe. The Duke of Edinburgh, in a speech in 1892, pointed out that in one year there was taken from the waters of the North Sea food products to the value of \$155,000,000, \$36,000,000 of which came to the British Isles. Other nations partake of the fishing in those waters. I want to ask if that is not a matter worth the consideration of the people of this Province and of the people of Toronto. Toronto wants to reach out and grow. Sir, it could grow if it had a portion of that trade in the outfitting and in supplying the population that would be engaged in such a trade. There were taken to England in the year mentioned 615,000 tons of food products from the North Sea of Europe (which is in the same latitude as James Bay), valued at \$60 per ton, or \$36,000,000. Is such a trade not worth reaching out for? I might remind hon. gentlemen that these are virgin waters. The North Sea of Europe has been fished for centuries. We have in the Canadian seas referred to many fur-bearing animals, according to the information, a source

of revenue which does not exist in the North Sea of Europe. All these great interests and resources surely make something worth looking after. The Government is justified, whether they build a railway on their own resources, or aid any other enterprising company or individuals to build to that point; they are, I repeat, justified in moving as rapidly as possible in that direction—it is eminently in the interests of the people of the Province that that northern country should be opened. It is of still greater importance from another point of view, if I may be pardoned for referring to it, than in respect to its timber and agricultural possibilities, its minerals and its fisheries—these are all of great importance and should be developed. Yet, I believe I am justified in the statement that it would be, from a military point of view, one of the greatest measures of satisfaction to the people of Canada that Canadians could adopt. If you will look at the map you will find Canada is a great stretch of country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It spreads out on the eastern and western border, but the intermediate section is but a narrow strip. I do not anticipate there will ever be any difficulty between Canada and our neighbours to the south. Assuming such a condition to arise, how can communication be best kept up? With the central sections of Canada, what would be the advantages if you had a railway running from James Bay to Lake Superior? I take it for granted that the British navy, which Canada can always look to, can hold its own in the waters of the Pacific, and that by such a means of transportation a British army could be in the very heart of Canada within twenty-four or thirty-six hours from landing on our northern border. The Canadian people are competent and capable of defending the rugged approaches that exist on both the lake coast, and on the north coast. Sir, I believe there is no army in the world that could penetrate the country between Lake Superior and James Bay if defended by Canadians. We have seen that our troops are capable of defending our own country when they are called to arms, and the people of Canada may well be proud of the work of the Canadian volunteers who have fought in South Africa. (Cheers.) They are well capable, if the occasion requires, of defending the rugged country to which I have referred. Therefore, I say that from a military point of view, such a railway is one of great importance to the people of Canada, and especially Ontario. If we would be embarrassed at all it would be mostly on our eastern and southern border—with this railway across the centre from our northern coast, we could not be blockaded.

Six o'clock, the House adjourned.

Mr. Speaker, just before the House rose I made some observations in reference to the James Bay region and transportation

to and from that point to the commercial centres of the Province. I wish to make one or two further references to it, and meet what is sometimes a criticism of the project. It is said by some that the water on the coast of James Bay is shallow, that there is not a good harbor to be found on that coast. I would like to point out in that connection that vessels can now approach the shores of James Bay more closely than they could approach in former decades the cities of Glasgow, Liverpool and Hamburg—vessels had to lay out twenty miles or more in the early history of these great cities. That difficulty has been overcome by a system of quays and the same method could be followed to accommodate transportation and commerce on the coast of James Bay.

#### **The Mining and other Resources of Ontario.**

I should like to say a word or two in respect to the mining and other resources of this Province. It is a matter of difference of opinion in this House, and perhaps through the country as well, as to the extent and value of our timber resources. Hon. gentlemen tell us now, and I find that in 1885 (the first year that I had the honor of a seat in this House) they were telling us the same thing, that we had cut almost the last stick of timber. I have been hearing that story year after year ever since. I do not profess to know what the timber resources of the whole Province of Ontario are, but I do know something of the resources of the District which I represent, and some of the adjacent territory, and I would like to call attention to them. The member for Lanark (Col. Matheson) in his remarks said that we had sold almost the last area of timber in the Province. If he himself had taken some trouble to ascertain what the timber wealth of this Province is, and the number of herths still unsold, he would have found that there are great areas and many areas yet unsold, although surveyed. (Ministerial applause.) It is not the policy of the Government to dispose of the timber simply because they have it, but to dispose of it as the requirements of trade and the development of the country warrant them in doing so and as other circumstances might justify. Sir, we have a great number of timber herths in various parts of this Province which we have already surveyed, the records of which can be found in the Crown Lands Department. My hon. friend said that a lumberman had told him that we have cut almost the last stick of timber. What does any one lumberman or any ten lumbermen of this Province know of its timber resources? I venture to say that there are hon. gentlemen on both sides of this House who are experienced lumbermen and who will tell my honorable friend that the best lumbermen have often entirely underesti-

mated their own limits and have thought they had nearly exhausted the timber and had sold it, and the purchaser had cut far more on it than they themselves had cut, and then resold it for a larger sum. (Ministerial applause.) This is the history of timber herths the world over, and it is the history of our timber resources. There are large areas left in this Province that have not yet been touched. The area south of the C.P.R. in eastern Algoma is one with which I am pretty well acquainted, and I venture to say that there is half a billion feet of timber in that section alone still in the Crown and still to be disposed of. (Ministerial applause.) I speak with knowledge of the country. Coming west to the belt between the C.P.R. and the southern boundary of the Province west of Lake Superior, I venture to say, and I am not saying it without knowledge, that there is more than one-and-a-half billion of feet of timber on that area of land still uncut and still undisposed of. These are enormous quantities, and we might duplicate these quantities in the vast areas of timber lying to the north which I do not venture to estimate. I do not pretend to speak of them as I have no personal knowledge of them. The hon. member for Lanark said he did not know of any unsold timber berths. I think if that hon. gentleman knew as much about that question as he pretends to know of some other things, he would not make such a mistake.

#### **Conservative Sales of Timber Limits in the Disputed Territory to their Friends.**

In these estimates I do not include the timber on Hunter's Island. Hon. gentlemen opposite will remember that when their friends were in power at Ottawa and believed that what is now called New Ontario belonged to the Federal power, and that they had a right to deal with it, they parcelled it out to their political friends. I find such names as MacDonald & Co., John Shields, MacDonald, Manning & Co., all good Conservatives, among those who were generously treated in this respect. They got 150 square miles each, others got 50 square miles, others again 75 square miles and so on, all through the list, and I would like to emphasize the fact that they were all good Conservative workers who obtained these large timber areas in the constituency I represent, from the Administration at Ottawa for a mere song, for less money, in fact, than one berth of five square miles has brought to the Province when sold under our regulations. I venture to say that hon. gentlemen have a knowledge of these timber areas, and the manner in which the Ottawa Government proposed to deal with them. At all events, the information is open for them to digest at any time. (Ministerial laughter and applause.) Mr. John Haggart is another well-known gentleman

whose name I find on the list. Mr. Speaker, that timber is all there yet! (Long continued applause.) It is still uncut. It still belongs to the Crown. It is not, however, to the credit of hon. gentlemen opposite that it is there, or to the credit of their friends at Ottawa. It is to the credit of the Reformers of this Province, who stood by the rights and interests of the Province of Ontario, and retained that great source of revenue for the people of this Province! (Loud and continued applause.)

Not only will we receive from that once-disputed territory a very great revenue from that source, and from other classes of timber, and from our minerals and lands, but I venture to say that the time will come when, under proper regulation, a very great revenue will be obtained from the fishery resources which were retained to this Province by the Reformers thus standing for the rights of the Province which hon. gentlemen had abandoned and opposed.

#### **The Iron Ore Industry.**

Now, sir, I just wish to make a few observations with respect to some other resources of this Province. I refer to the mining development of the Province. I quite agree that anything that is in the power of the Administration to do, or anything within reason for this House to do, to develop the mineral resources of the Province should be done, that expenditure in that line is quite justified. We have had some discussion in regard to our mineral development. It is not so very long since, in 1895, that we gave some encouragement to the production of pig iron within the Province, and I may remind hon. gentlemen that a few years previous a resolution was moved by myself in this House with a view to giving aid for that special purpose, but which received no support from hon. gentlemen opposite, and that only one member in the House, apart from myself, who had the honour of moving it, would support it, and it had to be withdrawn because hon. gentlemen on that side of the House did not see fit to give it any support, and it was not at that time adopted as a policy on this side of the House. I am glad to say that that feeling has passed away, at least on this side of the House, and that there is a disposition on the part of the Administration to do everything reasonable for the development of our iron industry. I wish to point out what has been done. The small aid of \$1 per ton granted in 1895 has led to very good results. Previous to that inducement being offered, we had no iron smelting in Ontario. There had been some little mining of ore, which was shipped and exported in one or two sections, but it had long since ceased. Efforts had also been made to establish smelters, but none were successful. It is only since this inducement was

offered that we have had any substantial development. The first practical blast furnace was put in operation in 1896. In 1900 about 90 300 tons of ore were mined and smelted in the Province; in 1901, 300,000. The smelting of pig-iron is rapidly increasing since that date; there are now furnaces at Hamilton, Deseronto and Midland. Last year these furnaces produced about 63,000 tons, having a value of about \$950,000. This year the product will be largely increased; the output will be not less than 125,000 tons, and the value a little over one-and-three-quarter millions. Two additional iron furnaces will go into blast this year at Sault Ste. Marie. There are four furnaces in course of erection there, two of which are about completed.

#### **Recent Progress in Sudbury and Algoma Districts.**

In addition, we have the steel works at the Soo just about ready to commence the production of rails. This is a new and important enterprise and one that is fraught with great possibilities for the development of this country, and that never would have been established but for the aid given the Algoma Central Railway, which made their establishment a possibility. Hon. gentlemen opposite voted against that enterprise, and must now see the great injury they would have done the Province had their policy prevailed. The activity in mining, especially in the Districts of Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury, has been very marked. The Canadian Copper Company are perhaps the largest producers of nickel in the world. There are besides several new enterprises in that section. The Ontario Smelting Company has erected large reduction works and established an excellent plant and are employing large numbers of men. The Victoria Mines Company has also established extensive smelting and reduction works. Each one of these works comprise a small village, and there is now a marvellous change in that vicinity. A considerable population is engaged in these several works, where but a few years ago there was nothing but forest. One has to see the locality to realize how rapid the change has been and how important these works are to the country. The pay roll alone in this one section this year will exceed \$1,000,000, according to the latest returns. Then in the vicinity of Sault Ste. Marie, and the Bruce Mines section, in connection with the development going on in those sections, the pay roll has been, including the railway construction, considerably over \$50 000 per month.

In proceeding westward you find nearly the same activity in the vicinity of Port Arthur and Fort William. In the operations in the Atikokan Iron Mines, including construction of railways, elevators and saw mills, there has been a pay roll of from \$25,000 to \$30,000 per month for the past few years.

### **The Good Results of the New Ontario Policy.**

The actual wages paid in connection with these enterprises do not represent more than one-third of the expenditure, as plant, machinery, material, food, supplies, etc., exceed by two-thirds the amount of the pay roll, so that we may conclude that there has been an expenditure of between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000 during the last year, and nearly that amount in the previous year. These figures will probably be considerably exceeded in the present year, so that there is substantial results from the little encouragement which has been so far given. If the aid had not been given to the Rainy River Railway or the Algoma Central Railway, these great works would not have been undertaken. Hon. gentlemen opposite have voted against both these enterprises, as I have pointed out. Sir, that volume of trade spreading over the Province stimulates industry and assists the manufacturer, the farmer, the stock raiser (whose products are purchased for the wants of these great works and the mining sections) the labourer, the mechanic, the artisan, the business man, in fact every class of person is benefitted by the great consumption needed there and the great numbers employed in the development of that section.

These industries are stimulating trade and spreading prosperity throughout the Province; they are building up these new sections of the country, and that is the result of the policy, that is one of the results flowing from the policy which has been adopted. Hon. gentlemen have condemned the grants to the railways. I say that without the grants to the railways being made, these expenditures would never have been made and this development could never go on. No capital would engage in establishing such great pulp and paper mills, nickel and copper smelters, iron smelters and steel works, unless there was some foundation for the investment of capital and some means of transportation. Sir, the policy of the Government is working well and is entirely justified by the development which has taken place so far, and I may point out that it is merely in its infancy, that the works now under way are not by any means the full completion of development, that there are yet greater things and some greater developments in store for that section of the country. And so on the section west of Port Arthur. There, too, there has been an expenditure within the last two or three years of between two and three million dollars a year. Incidental to the development of the sections to which I have referred, there has been an expenditure within the last two years of more than fifteen millions, which has gone into the development of this country and in stimulating all the lines of trade and commerce, in the employment of labour, and in the development



afforded in these new sections. Surely that is something that may be pointed to as among the results. I do not say that the Government has done it all, but I do say this, that without the consideration and assistance given and the policy adopted we would never have had this development, and I do not think that can be contradicted by anyone who has a knowledge of that country, and the development going on there. These are matters of great importance to this Province, and when hon. gentlemen make these motions that, if carried, would retard the development of the country, I think they are setting themselves in opposition to the best interests of the people. I do not wish to impute motives, but I do, however, say that their records in this House, judging from their votes in the past—because they are on record as voting against nearly every one of these matters—place the hon. gentlemen in an unenviable position. I hope they will improve in the time to come. Whatever policy hon. gentlemen may adopt in the future, I hope that it will be an improvement on their policy in the past. (Laughter.) It is a fair thing when hon. gentlemen are criticising the policy of this Government, carping at it, to remind the country of their record, and to point out what is going on to-day, what is known by everybody and anybody who has a knowledge of that country, and, as I have said, it affords an ample justification for the grants and aids which have been given with regard to the newer sections of this Province.

#### **A Comparison Between the Government and Opposition Policies.**

I do not wish to detain the House at much further length, but I do wish, before closing, to refer to the comparison which has been made between the two parties in this House and in the country. I do not wish to do so in any offensive sense, but since hon. gentlemen will refer to party matters and throw out insinuations that are severe, to say the least, they must not object to having their own records laid before them. It has been insinuated that we would have a higher moral standing in this country, more political honesty and morality, if hon. gentlemen opposite had crossed over to the Treasury benches. I would like to know if hon. gentlemen have really persuaded themselves that such would be the case, or if they think they could persuade the people of the country to agree with them. (Laughter.) What is their history? We have heard references to the West Elgin election. It is a regrettable circumstance, but I do not think that the Reform party are much to blame. Some Reformers are undoubtedly to be blamed, if the cases of wrong-doing alleged to have taken place did take place. But where is there a single

Reform leader in this country, or in this House, that has not condemned that sort of thing? How can the leader of this House be blamed in any sense? He is no more responsible for West Elgin than any gentleman opposite.

Mr. MATHESON: Why don't they punish the offenders?

Mr. CONNOR: Why don't the hon. gentleman opposite punish them himself? (Ministerial applause.) He has the right to put the law in motion. Why did he not do it against the offenders of his own party? (Renewed applause.) He knows of lots of them running loose in this country.

### The King's County Election.

The King's County election was a thousand times worse in my judgment, and in the judgment of any fair-minded man, than anything that happened in West Elgin. I am not prepared to say that hon. gentlemen opposite were the perpetrators of that wrong-doing. They did not do it. Their political friends and leaders at Ottawa did it. But where is there one Conservative, one hon. gentleman opposite, who has condemned that action or found fault with his leaders for that wrong-doing? (Ministerial applause). The ballot boxes were not stuffed in that case—they did not care for ballots. Their plan was an easier one. They declared elected the man who was defeated by 60 of a majority; it was not the act of a single Conservative but a majority of the Conservative Party in the House of Commons at Ottawa, who stood up and voted that the man who had a majority of votes should not be allowed to take his seat. No charge of that kind can be laid to the Liberals of this country. Sir, the facts were as follows: In the election for the constituency (King's County, Prince Edward Island) there were four candidates, two of whom were to be elected. The Liberal candidates were Mr. McIntyre and Dr. Robertson. The Conservatives, Mr. McDonald and Mr. Muttart. The vote stood as follows:

Mr. McIntyre (Liberal).....	2124 votes.
Dr. Robertson (Liberal).....	2002 votes.
A. C. McDonald (Conservative).....	1904 votes.
Mr. Muttart (Conservative).....	1854 votes.

Dr. Robertson, who polled 62 more votes than the highest Conservative candidate, had been a candidate for membership in the local Legislature in elections recently held, and had been elected. The Legislature had not met, and no Speaker had been elected. In accordance with the law, on becoming a candidate for the Dominion House, Dr. Robertson placed his letter of resignation in the hands of two members elected to the Legislature, and subsequently wrote to the Lieut.-Governor, informing him

of his action. A Conservative Government was in power in Prince Edward Island, and on receipt of the resignation of Dr. Robertson, a new election was held and the seat filled. The returning officer for the Dominion election, acting upon representations made to him by some Conservative friends, instead of returning the two Liberal candidates, made a return including the Conservative candidate having the highest number of votes along with one of the Liberal candidates. The matter was thrown into the House of Commons for decision, and although Dr. Robertson's resignation to the Legislature had been acted upon, and accepted as filling all the laws and forms required by the Conservative Government of Prince Edward Island, the Conservative majority at Ottawa seated the minority candidate, who occupied the position during the whole Parliamentary term. West Elgin, sir, sinks into insignificance in comparison with this high-handed violation of the constitution—one is the act of a few misguided enthusiasts; the other the deliberate conspiracy of the Conservative Party and its leaders.

#### **The History of an Algoma Election.**

Let me relate a little bit of history that comes closer still to hon. gentlemen opposite. I refer to an election in the district of Algoma, which I have the honor to represent. There, some of the men who used to work in the Conservative ranks, Manning, MacDonald and Co., which included John Shields and John Haggart, at Rat Portage, took 250 to 300 navies and surrounded the polls and by physical force refused to allow Reformers to vote. The Conservatives also brought down the battery from Winnipeg, planted it on the heights at Rat Portage, and tried to intimidate voters. They were never punished. I know the people who did it. I can tell my hon. friends that some of them are holding office now who did more ballot stuffing than was ever done in West Elgin. I know an officer of Customs who acknowledged that he stuffed two ballot boxes. I can tell my hon. friends who they are and where they are, and if we are to have a culling out, there would be perhaps more than one head fall into the basket.

#### **Conservative Wrong-doing at Ottawa.**

My hon. friend from Centre Grey told us that there might be wrong-doing on this side of the House, in fact, that the revenue, the cash of the Province might be misappropriated, but if so, hon. gentlemen were unable to learn the facts. Well, sir, that is admitting their own inability. If they choose to take that position, I would like to know what excuse there is for their further existence in this House—(Ministerial applause and laughter)—

and on what grounds can they go to the country and ask to be returned. (Renewed laughter and applause.) Will they say to the people, there may be wrong-doing, but we are not able or capable of exposing it, although we have all the resources of the House. Would the people believe them? I ask my hon. friends if there is a more partisan committee in the Ontario House than there was in the Parliament of Ottawa, in the Conservative regime? The Liberals at that time did more than insinuate that there was wrong-doing; they proved it. (Ministerial applause.) They brought the perpetrators before the partisan committee, proved them to be guilty of wrong-doing and misappropriation of funds and compelled the Conservative Party to put some of their own friends out of the House and out of office and lock them up in the prisons of this country. (Long continued Ministerial applause.) When we hear these insinuations that we on this side of the House are politically dishonest, we do not hope for fair and reasonable attacks either here or in the elections. But we can challenge them and can go further and ask them to look on the record of our Party and point to any scandal such as the McGreevy scandal, the Curran Bridge, or the Langevin block scandal. I do not say that hon. gentlemen opposite were perpetrators in all these wrongs. But they are the gentlemen who supported the men who had perpetrated those wrongs. (Ministerial applause.) They went out into the country to secure the support of their party for those same wrong-doers, and they have never yet risen in this House or on the platform and condemned the wrongs and maladministration which occurred at Ottawa at that time.

#### **Race and Religious Cries.**

Now, sir, I have one more charge to lay against the Conservative Party. I have never known a general election, or any other election in this Province, in which that Party to which hon. gentlemen opposite belong did not appeal to race prejudice and religious prejudice throughout the Province and the country. (Applause.) If there is anything in this country that we should look to, that the people of all parties should look to, that every true Canadian should look to, it is that we should stamp out all cries of that kind, that we should meet each other as Canadians in a fair and straight political contest without any reference to race or creed. I say it on my responsibility here that to-day in my constituency Conservative canvassers are going upon the race and religious cry. The Reformers are told that if they do not vote Conservative they had better move to Quebec where all are Frenchmen, and where they are nearly all Liberals. I say these are unworthy tactics and unworthy motives. I am not charging

hon. gentlemen, or any single hon. gentleman opposite, with individually using that sort of argument, but I do say that their press and their party are doing so, and they are taking advantage of it. I say they could if they wished stamp it out. It is the Reform party in this Province of ours that has met and defeated that contention of race and creed all over this country. (Applause).

#### **The Ross Government.**

Sir, no Reformer has reason to shrink from a comparison of his party with the Party of hon. gentlemen opposite, either on their record of administration or legislation in this Province, or in this Dominion. It is by the efforts of the Reform Party that we have responsible government in this country and the constitution under which we live, and it is that party which has defeated race and religious cries when they were raised in this Province; it is that Party which has ever stood for the rights, liberties and best interests of the people. Why, sir, we have a progressive Government—a Government that is doing everything in fairness. It is a safe Government, one that can be entrusted with developing the resources of this country, one that is giving to all classes in this country a fair service and an honest administration. In a sense it is a new Government. The leader of this House has never yet appealed to the people of this country, and I predict for him when he does appeal that he will be returned to this House with a greater majority than any Premier that we have ever had in this Province. (Loud Ministerial cheers.)

