

Mr. McCALL (Norfolk) seconded it.

Mr. BOYD said he should support the Government in this item, believing that the district needed development.

Mr. PERRY thought that if the road touched any part where a railway was proposed, then it was a useless expenditure.

Hon. Mr. CARLING said there was no railway there.

Mr. OLIVER was in favour of making gravel roads at the commencement.

Some discussion of a somewhat personal character ensued, and the vote was eventually agreed to.

On the item of \$200,000 for Surveys and Drainage of Swamp Lands,

Mr. BLAKE said when the House adopted the resolutions authorizing this expenditure, it was chiefly influenced by the observation of the hon. gentleman, that explanations would be given at this stage. He hoped that the promise would be redeemed, and that the happy time had arrived, when the House would have the opportunity of knowing the localities where the money of the Government was to be expended.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said he was surprised that the hon. member asked for this information now. There were reports before the House, and the Engineer in Chief in the department had presented a report on the lands where this money for drainage was to be expended.

Mr. BOYD said the House was not in a position when the resolutions authorizing the expenditure passed to estimate the cost, and further information was certainly desirable.

Hon. Mr. WOOD read an extract from the return presented to the House, as to the surveys and estimated cost of reclaiming the lands which were referred to in the report. The various plans could be seen by gentlemen on application at the offices. The object was to reclaim swamps over the whole of the Province; but they could not do them all at once.

Mr. MONTEITH thought that if the money was expended on any but Crown, School, or Clergy lands he would not so willingly support the vote.

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD said they proposed to drain lands in any part of the Province where health, or agriculture required. They would take into consideration the wishes of the municipalities in this matter. Common sense showed that large swamps should, if possible, be reclaimed, and large tracts of lands might be added to the producing power of the country. Where School, Crown, or Clergy lands were concerned, they would be charged to the public revenue.

In answer to Mr. GALBRAITH,

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD said that the country were to understand that it was the intention of the Government only to spend money on large works this year, and not in small advances to municipalities.

Mr. MURRICH asked if these funds were to be expended on lands such as those that belonged to the Canada Company.

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD said they did not intend to do so. There was no intention of going beyond those parts of the country where there were settlers already. It was with a view of draining the swamp around which settlers had already settled.

Mr. McKELLAR asked if any works were to be undertaken in Kent?

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD said it was not the intention.

Mr. BLAKE said the amount stated in the return was that works then mentioned would require \$243,000, whereas the vote was but \$20,000. What course did the Government intend to pursue?

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD said that the whole of these sums would not, of course, be expended in the coming year.

Mr. BLAKE said that he then understood that the money was not all accounted for, and, therefore, they had not a fulfilment of the promise that had been made. They might consistently spend the whole of the money on other places, while not one dollar might be spent on the Swamps stated. He thought the pledge of the hon. gentleman had not been fulfilled. They only knew some Swamps on which the money might be expended, but they did not know what other places might be selected.

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD said that the hon. member for South Bruce distrusted the Government, in the face of every proof. The Government were abused because they would not spend more money, and he was surprised at the conduct of the Opposition. He defied them to show where the Government had misapplied a dollar.

Mr. BLAKE said that the hon. gentleman had no right to glory in it; it was no saving to say that having not expended the full grant, there was an economy of the balance, and it was altogether too ludicrous to be allowed to pass. Last year they gave them \$15,000 to make surveys and report to the House, in order to know where the localities were which required these enterprises; but the Government did not choose to spend the money, but preferred to keep it in the strong box and then came and claimed credit for being economical. He did not think that the replies of the hon. gentleman were satisfactory, and did not fulfil the promise which had been held out. Practically this was a vote of credit, and having defeated the motion on the previous occasion, he came down and said that they should not know where the money might actually be expended. References had been made to the position of the Reform party, but at the "celebrated" speech at Brooklyn, he said that he had converted the Conservative party, that he was a good missionary, and had brought the party over into the arms of the Reform party, with which he had spent the best years of his life. He was a good Reformer, and he could not forsake the principles which he had supported during so long a period. And that was the statement of the present leader of the Conservative party?

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD—No, I am not.

Mr. BLAKE—No, you are not, because they are no more, for the hon. gentleman has

succeeded in casting them, and that there was no such thing as a Conservative party. That was the position into which their leader had brought them, and he would leave him to settle the matter between himself and his followers. (Cheers.)

Attorney-General MACDONALD disclaimed to be the leader of the Conservative party or of the Reform party. He simply claimed to be leader of the Government, and would only be responsible for the acts of the Government as a whole.

Mr. BLAKE—The axes of the Government?

Attorney-General MACDONALD—I said acts.

Mr. BLAKE—O, I beg pardon. I thought you said axes. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. WOOD said, if a party spirit were to be displayed in this great question, let the hon. members opposite bear the responsibility for it. Did the hon. members pretend to be serious in expressing their fears that the Government would not act honestly? There was no discrepancy between the statement he made last year, and the facts which had since transpired.

Mr. BOYD thought that the facts did not carry out this assertion.

The vote was ultimately agreed to.

PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

On the item \$83,177, for the Provincial Lunatic Asylum of Toronto,

Mr. McKELLAR enquired the cause of the increase of the vote this year.

Hon. Mr. WOOD explained that it arose chiefly from an increase in the number of patients.

After some discussion on the various items, the votes of \$22,478 for Reformatory, and \$69,450 for Agriculture and Arts, were agreed to without discussion.

On the vote of \$24,700 for Emigration,

Mr. BLAKE said the heading stated that the vote was \$24,700, and referred to statement A for further information. On referring to that statement, he found the "appropriation for that service, \$24,700." That seemed to be a singular way of explaining the matter.

Hon. Mr. WOOD gave some items in the vote, and, in reply to Mr. BLAKE,

Hon. Mr. CARLING said that poor emigrants were assisted by the Government with free passes to places in the Provinces.

Mr. BLAKE urged that liberal measures should be adopted by the Government in regard to immigration, and that assistance should be given to settlers.

Hon. Mr. CARLING said that the Government had sent out circulars to every municipality in the Province, asking for information as to the requirements of the district in the shape of labour. The returns had been received, and were found to be of great use.

Mr. McDOUGALL hoped the Government would give fuller information with regard to Free Grant lands in the eastern portion of the Province.

Hon. Mr. CARLING said that the new editions of the pamphlets issued by the Department gave equal prominence to the Free Grant lands in the eastern portion of the Province as in the other districts.

The vote was then agreed to.

The Committee then rose and reported; and the House adjourned at 15 minutes to twelve.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. BOULTER—Address for a return showing the number of acres of land drowned and rendered unfit for agricultural purposes, by the Government, across the river Trent at Chisholm's Rapids.