

NAYS—Messrs Beatty, Boulter, Calvin, Cameron, Carling (London), Carling (Huron), Carnegie, Colquhoun, Corby, Craig (Glengary), Craig (Russell), Eyre, Ferrier, Fitzsimmons, Graham (Hastings), Grahame (York), Hooper, Lout, Luton, Macdonald, McGill, Matchett, Monteith, Reed, Richards, Rykert, Secord, Swinarton, Tett, Wigle, Williams (Durham), Wilson, Wood—33.

Item concurred in.

On item Provincial Lunatic Asylum, Toronto,

Mr. BLAKE moved that for the London Lunatic Asylum \$1,600 is voted for beer, wine, and spirits, while \$3,000 is asked for the same purpose for the Toronto Asylum, being in excess, in proportion, \$1,016; and that the amount be reduced by that sum.

Lost on the following division—yeas 17, nays 34:—

YEAS—Messrs Anderson, Beatty, Blake, Boyd, Christie, Co-K, Fitzsimmons, McKellar, McKim, McLeod, McMurrich, Perry, Sexton, Sinclair, Springer, Trow, Williams (Hamilton)—17.

NAYS—Messrs Boulter, Calvin, Cameron, Carling (London), Carling (Huron), Carnegie, Colquhoun, Corby, Craig (Glengary), Craig (Russell), Currie, Eyre, Ferrier, Graham (Hastings), Grahame (York), Hooper, Luton, Macdonald, McColl (Edm), McGill, Matchett, Monteith, Reed, Richards, Rykert, Secord, Smith (Leeds and Grenville), Strange, Swinarton, Tett, Wigle, Williams (Durham), Wilson, Wood—34.

Item concurred in.

A number of other items were concurred in *nem. con*

On the Land Improvement Fund,

Mr. BLAKE moved to provide that the money shall be handed over to the municipalities under certain conditions.

Lost—Yeas 12; nays 31.

YEAS—Messrs Blake, Boyd, Christie, McKellar, McKim, McLeod, McMurrich, Perry, Sexton, Sinclair, Springer, Williams (Hamilton)—12.

NAYS—Messrs Anderson Beatty, Boulter, Calvin, Cameron, Carling (London), Carling (Huron), Carnegie, Colquhoun, Corby, Craig (Glengary), Craig (Russell), Currie, Eyre, Fitzsimmons, Graham (Hastings), Hooper, Macdonald, McGill, Monteith, Reed, Richards, Rykert, Secord, Smith (Leeds and Grenville), Strange, Swinarton, Tett, Wigle, Wilson, Wood—31.

SUPPLY.

Hon. Mr. WOOD then introduced the Supply Bill. The House went into committee on it, and reported it.

TIMBER LICENSES.

The House went into committee and passed the Bill relating to Timber Licenses, Mr. Hays in the chair. The Bill was read a third time and passed.

SETTLEMENT ON FREE GRANT TERRITORY.

The House went into committee and passed the Bill relating to the Settlement of Free Grant Territory. The Bill was read a third time.

ESTREATS.

On motion of Attorney-General MACDONALD, the order for the second reading of the Bill respecting Estreats, was discharged.

CHURCH STREET, LONDON.

The Bill respecting Church street, London, was, on the motion of Hon. Mr. CARLING, read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at 2 45 till half-past seven.

EVENING SITTING.

After recess,

RETURNS.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON presented returns relative to the Municipal Loan Fund; also returns relative to the works at Rosseau River Lock, London Blind Asylum, Bilsen Lake, Scugog River, Joseph and Rosseau Lakes, and Washago and Gravenhurst Road.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Mr. CUMBERLAND presented a report of the Public Accounts Committee, of which the following is a copy:—

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

To the Hon. the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:—

The Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts have the honour to report:—

1. Your Committee have engaged in a detailed and exhaustive examination of the Public Accounts, ranging over the whole period from the 1st January, 1868, to 31st Dec., 1870.

2. Throughout the course of their investigations your Committee has received full access to all records and vouchers involved in their enquiries, and have also received ready assistance and explanations from the respective departments of the Government.

3. Your Committee have had under consideration the system of accounting and audits in the Treasurer's Department, and they are of opinion that it is effective and reliable.

(1.) In securing due responsible executive authority for all expenditures.

[Note by Chairman—Carried on a division.]

(2.) In affording exact and complete record of all financial transactions, and ready access to all details and vouchers relating to the respective items of expenditure and payment.

(3.) In providing an efficient and complete audit, which, having continuous and concurrent effect with the operations of the Department of the Treasury, affords a reliable check upon all expenditure under Parliamentary grants, upon the accuracy of the accounting and of the financial statement.

4. Your committee is nevertheless of the opinion that, in the future preparation of the public accounts for submission to the Legislature, such a system of classification should be adopted in regard to items of contingencies as would secure a more complete understanding of the cost of the respective services under that heading, and a better comparison of the aggregate expenditures therein as in relation to those of previous years.

5. Your committee submits herewith so much of the evidence as is explanatory of the system of accounting and audit as established in the Treasury Department.

6. Your committee recognize as satisfactory proof of the efficiency of that department the fact of the Public Accounts for the first ten months of the year, namely, from 1st January to 31st October, 1870, having been presented to the House at the opening of the session, and immediately after the adoption of the address in reply to the speech from the Throne; and that the statements for the whole year, namely to the 31st December, 1870, were submitted to your Committee on the 19th January, 1871; thus enabling your Committee, which has held twenty-three meetings, to engage in a deliberate criticism of their contents.

7. Your Committee have made special enquiry into the circumstances connected with the retirement, in August, 1867, of the late Mr. Abbs, an officer in the Treasury Department, and found that the irregularities in the performance of his duties were due to mental disturbance, ultimately resulting in death—that a speedy corrective was applied by the Government, and that no loss ensued to the Province.

8. Your Committee have also investigated in detail certain alleged irregularities in the conduct of the duties of the Department of the Queen's Printer, and find that they arose from the negligence and incapacity of the officer in charge, whose services were dispensed with—that the remedial measures adopted by the Government have been sufficient to ensure efficient service in the future; and that although some accounts are as yet in dispute and uncollected, there is no reason to believe that any loss will accrue to the Province. It is satisfactory to know that the publication of the Official Gazette results in a profit to the Government over and above the cost of its issue, inclusive of executive announcements, proclamations, etc.

9. Your Committee have given their especial attention to the expenditure connected with public works, and they find that the estimates for the works authorized and provided for by votes of the Legislature have been with slight exception sufficient to cover the expenses; and they record their opinion that in works of the extent and variety of those undertaken, subject as they are to local circumstances and the fluctuations of prices, so satisfactory an adherence to the limitations of the estimates is without precedent, and is highly creditable to the officers of the Department. Your Committee submits herewith a return of the Government works embraced in the public accounts, showing in each case the amount of the original estimate and appropriation, and the actual expenditure in completion.

10. The chief item of over-expenditure has been in connection with the Lieut. Governor's residence, where the outlay has been \$5,337 77 in excess of the Parliamentary grant. The residence itself was originally estimated to cost \$60,000, and it has been completed for \$61,928 04, or an excess of about 3 1/2 per cent—the furnishing and the fittings of the house have been provided within the estimate; the stabling and the coach house, originally estimated at \$4,500, have been finished for \$4,467 76. The extra outlay has arisen chiefly in connection with the improvement

of the grounds, the construction of carriage roads, and in necessary and additional provisions not originally contemplated—as gate-ledge, green-house, gardener's house, &c. The total extra outlay has nevertheless been limited to a trifle over five per cent, upon the original estimate—that is to say, the total Parliamentary grant was \$100,000, whilst the total expenditure has amounted to \$105,337 77. Your committee is of opinion that the work has been well and economically done, and that it bears very favourable comparison with the best private works of its class in the Province.

11. Your committee have closely investigated those items in Departmental Contingencies connected with advertising, and they find that a considerable outlay has occurred in obedience to an order of your honourable House relating to the publication of notices as to Private Bills. Your committee submit the evidence of the Clerk of the House on this subject, and are of opinion that although the notices thus ordered were at first desirable and necessary, they may hereafter be beneficially restricted to the Official Gazette, and they recommend that the standing order of the House be amended accordingly.

12. Adverting to the supply of goods by the depository of the Education Office to the Normal and Model schools, your committee are of opinion that in future they should be charged to those institutions at the cost price and not at a reduced rate.

13. Your committee is of opinion that in order to secure a more efficient control over the expenditure of moneys through the Education Office, that office should be made directly responsible to some member of the Government.

14. Your committee cannot close their labours without bearing general testimony to the order, efficiency, and executive supervision which have been disclosed by their critical investigations into the services and details embraced in the statements of public accounts, nor can they refrain from advertising with satisfaction to the result exhibited in an actual cash surplus, invested and uninvested, at the credit of the Government, amounting, on the 31st December, 1870, to the sum of \$3,294,652 32.

15. Your committee submits the appendix of the minutes of their final meeting, embodying the resolutions moved, and the divisions taken thereon.

All respectfully submitted.

FRED. CUMBERLAND,

Chairman.

(The following is the appendix referred to by Mr. Blake:)

Minutes of proceedings at meeting of Committee, Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Present—Mr. Cumberland, chairman; and Messrs Wood, McMurrich, Blake, Beatty, Carnegie, McDougall, McLeod, Smith (Leeds.)

The CHAIRMAN presented a draft report, and the same was read and discussed. The clauses were moved seriatim.

Clauses 1 and 2 were carried unanimously; clause 3 carried on a division; clauses 4 and 5 carried unanimously; clause 6 carried on a division; and clause 7 carried on a division.

On a consideration of the eighth clause,

Mr. McDUGALL moved that the same be expunged, and the following be substituted:—“That this committee, having had under its consideration the unsatisfactory result of the Queen's printership during the tenure of that office by Mr. H. J. Hartney, is compelled to report, from the evidence given by the auditor:—

First—That an insufficient set of books was used from the first.

Second—That the distribution of the stationery and the statutes, and the keeping of the accounts connected with the Gazette were conducted in the most careless manner.

Third—That the amount outstanding for the Gazette increased daily, there being in arrear over \$1,600. These results could not have taken place nor continued but for want of supervision on the part of the Government.

The motion was lost on the following division: Yeas—Messrs. Blake, McMurrich, McDougall and McLeod; Nays—Messrs. Wood, Smith, Beatty and Carnegie; the Chairman voting Nay as his casting vote.

Clause 8 and 9 were carried on the same division.

Clause 10 to the end of the first paragraph was then carried on the following division: Yeas—Messrs. Wood, McMurrich, Carnegie, Beatty and Smith. Nays—Messrs. Blake, McDougall and McLeod.