

The place where such prison should be constructed. The division was at once taken:—

On item \$12,840 for Normal and Model Schools, Mr. BLAKE moved an amendment that the item of \$10,000 for enlarging the Normal School be struck out.

A Division was at once taken, as follows:—

Mr. BLAKE moved further amendment for the purpose of striking out item of \$2,000 for propagating house.

A vote was taken and the amendment lost by 16 to 38.

Mr. BLAKE moved that the large expenditure of \$6,000 for the improvement of navigation, Nottawasaga River is recommended by the surveyor towards the drainage of the lands adjoining; that thereby these lands become of great value; and that such works should be done at the expense of the localities under the Drainage Act, and not at the public expense; and that the resolution be not concurred in.

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

On the Land Improvement Fund, Mr. BLAKE moved to provide that the money shall be handed over to the municipalities under certain conditions.

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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, 1878, to 31st December, 1879.

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 audit in the Treasury Department, and they are of opinion that it is effective and reliable.

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

(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, 1879, 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, 1879, were submitted to your Committee on the 19th January, 1879; 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 Lieutenant-Governor's residence, where the outlay has been \$5,337 7/8 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 7/8. 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, 1879, to the sum of \$3,294,652 32.

15. Your committee submit 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, McMurich, 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. McDougall 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 arrears over \$1,600. These results could neither 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. McMurich, Blake, McLeod and McDougall; Nays—Messrs. Beatty, Carnegie, Smith and Wood. The Chairman gave his casting vote Nay.

The clause was then carried on the same division.

Mr. BLAKE moved that, it being the time for meeting of the House, this Committee do adjourn.

This motion was lost on the same division.

Mr. BLAKE moved, that the following clause be inserted in the report:—“That with regard to the amount expended beyond the estimate for the year 1879, in the opinion of the Committee, these amounts ought to be charged to the items ‘unforeseen and unprovided,’ the vote of \$20,000 in respect of this item being agreed to in order to cover such contingencies.”

This motion was lost on the same division, the Chairman giving his casting vote Nay.

Mr. BLAKE moved that the following clause be inserted:—“That with reference to certain items for increase of salaries and of \$935 16, being for salary to the auditor, and of \$122 being for salary to his clerk, this committee is of opinion, that it is inexpedient to create new offices at a salary or to increase the salaries attached to existing offices, during the recess of Parliament, without a previous vote of the House authorizing such creation or increase.”

This motion was lost on the same division, the Chairman giving his casting vote in the negative.

Mr. BLAKE moved that the following clause be inserted in the report:—“That with regard to the items of \$300, \$200 and \$350 paid to the Hon. John Simpson, assistant Dominion auditor: in the opinion of this committee it is inexpedient that officers in the permanent service of one Government should be employed for reward by another Government; and that the assistant auditor of the Dominion should not have been employed for reward by Ontario in any way in connection with the Dominion and Ontario.”

This motion was lost on the same division, the Chairman giving his casting vote in the negative.

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This motion was lost on the same division, the Chairman giving his casting vote in the negative.

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This motion was lost on the same division, the Chairman giving his casting vote in the negative.

The motion was lost on the same division, by the casting vote of the Chairman.

Mr. BLAKE moved that a clause similar to the twelfth, now in the report, be added. Carried.

Mr. McDougall moved that a clause similar to the thirteenth, now in the report, be added. Carried.

Mr. McDougall moved that the following clause be inserted in the Bill:—“That the payment to H. Kinloch of \$75 in 1868, \$98 75 in 1869, and \$79 30 in 1870, as well as those of \$109 25 in 1869, and \$195 70 to F. T. Jones, arose from the presence of the heads of their respective departments—the Hon. J. S. Macdonald and the Hon. John Carling—at Ottawa attending the sessions of the Dominion Parliament; and are, consequently, sums which should not be taken from the Provincial chest.”

The motion was lost on the following division:—Yeas: Messrs. McDougall, Blake, and McLeod. Nays: Messrs. Beatty, Carnegie, McMurich, and Smith.

Mr. McDougall moved that the following clause be inserted in the report:—“That the payments of \$50, \$100, \$60, \$60, \$41 80, and \$164—in all, \$475 80—to the London Prototype, T. and R. White, J. S. Moylan, Robertson and Cook, Henry Lemmon, and J. and S. Blackburn respectively, being for the advertising of merely formal meetings of the House, were a waste of money.”

The motion was lost on the following division:—Yeas: Messrs. Blake, McDougall, and McLeod. Nays: Messrs. Beatty, Carnegie, McMurich, and Smith.

(In these two divisions the numbers are given in the report as three to five, although in both cases the names of only four members appear in the division list. The addition of the name of the Hon. Mr. Wood, which appears in the previous divisions, would make the figures and names agree.)

Mr. CARNEGIE moved that the report, as amended, be adopted, and that the Chairman report the same to the House forthwith. Carried.

Mr. BLAKE moved that the resolutions and divisions taken at this meeting be reported to the House by the Chairman. Carried.

The committee then adjourned.

FRED. CUMBERLAND, Chairman.

(The other appendices submitted give reports of the evidence of Mr. Cayley, a copy of which has already appeared in THE GLOBE.)

Mr. BLAKE called attention to the fact that there was no allusion in the report to the appendix.

After some conversation, Mr. Cumberland added a clause to the report to this effect, and the report was then concurred in.

SCHOOL LANDS.

Mr. LAUDER asked whether or not the Government intend to take any steps before the next meeting of the Legislature to secure such an adjustment or settlement of the Common School Land Fund, as will place all School Lands within the Province fully under our own control;

And also—Whether, in view of such adjustment or settlement being effected, any steps are to be taken to ascertain the relative value or quality of School Lands, when compared with other lands in the same localities, in order that a just and equitable statement may be made of principal and interest due from actual settlers on inferior school lands.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said it was not the intention of the Government to take any steps in this matter. The Common School Land Fund had been decided by the arbitrators as a trust property, and that being the case, the Ontario Government could not deal with it in exactly the same way in which they had treated funds over which they exercised full control. Had these lands been in the same position as the Crown, Clergy, and Grammar School lands, there was no doubt that the Government would have dealt with them in the same way. As Lower Canada was, however, interested in these lands, the Government considered it inexpedient to disturb in any way the manner in which these lands were dealt with, and especially in view of efforts being made to disturb the award. If, however, there were any cases of hardship in connection with these lands, and probably there were—they could probably meet them by some joint action between the Provinces. The Government in power would have to take such action with reference to these cases as might appear most expedient to it.

TIMBER LICENSES.

Mr. SCOTT (Grey) enquired if it is the intention of the Government to make any change in the issuing of timber licenses to actual settlers on unpatented lands, so that parties settling on lands since the 1st July, 1867, may have the benefit of cutting the timber thereon, the proceeds of which shall be appropriated towards the payment of the land.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said it was not the intention to make any change.

Mr. SCOTT said there had been many parties settling on these lands since the 1st July, 1867, and they ought to be placed in an equally advantageous position with older settlers.

Attorney General MACDONALD said there had been but few sales since 1867.

Mr. SCOTT said thousands of acres had been sold in Huron, Grey, and Bruce.

COUNTY TREASURERS.

Mr. SCOTT (Grey) enquired if it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill to make any change in the sale of lands for taxes, so that the sale of such lands shall be taken from the jurisdiction of the County Treasurer and transferred to the sheriff of the county in which said lands are situate, as was formerly the case.

Attorney General MACDONALD—Not during the present session. (Laughter)

FRIENDS' SEMINARY.

On motion of Mr. ANDERSON, certain fees in the Bill respecting the Friends' Seminary, now withdrawn, were ordered to be repaid.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON presented returns relative to the Municipal Loan Fund; also returns relative to the works at Rosseau River Lock, London Blind Asylum, &c.

EVENING SITTING.

After recess, RETURNS.