

order be discharged.

Mr. WOOD (Brant) referred to what was the uniform practice in regard to such matters in the House of Commons, and that was in accordance with the course taken by the Commissioner of Public Works on the present occasion.

Mr. RYKERT thought that the Government should let the House know what they intended to do with the Bill.

Mr. MACDONALD endorsed the view of the previous speaker, and was proceeding in his remarks when he was called to order by

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, who said there was no question before the Chair.

Mr. MACDONALD contended that there was, and said that it was singular that the member for South Brant, above all others, should adduce rules of Parliament laid down by the leader of the Ottawa Government for the guidance of this House.

Mr. WOOD explained that he had referred to what had been the practice of both the Houses of Commons in England and here, and he had never heard that practice called into question.

The matter then dropped.

#### INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE moved the second reading of the Bill to provide for the establishment of a hospital for the reclamation and cure of habitual drunkards. He said that the question had been fully discussed, and it had been decided by the House that it was desirable that this hospital should be established. The Government believed that they had sufficient grounds for purchasing the land and erecting a new institution entirely, and with the exception of about eighteen members, the House was in favour of that proposition. It only remained for him therefore to explain briefly some of the details of the Bill—and this he proceeded to do. A voluntary patient would have to sign a request for his admission to the hospital, after which the Bill provided that he should be kept there for a specified length of time not exceeding two years. He read from reports on this subject which went to prove that the reason the cures were not much more frequent than they had proved to be was because of the want of power to keep patients in the asylums for a sufficiently long time. The Bill provided that those who were able to pay must do so, and before entering the institution a bond must be executed providing for the due payment of the expenses of his maintenance as long as he remains there. The Bill also provided that persons may be sent there compulsorily. The mode of procedure was provided by which on a petition to the County Judge, setting forth that a person was an habitual drunkard and unable to control himself, the Judge might enquire into the matter, the person interested having been duly notified. Both parties might appear by counsel, and the Judge, after hearing all the evidence, was to report to the Provincial Secretary. As to the payment for compulsory patients the same provisions were made as already existed as to lunatics—the Inspector of Asylums being a trustee to hold control over the property of the patient. Since drawing out the details of the Bill, he had read a copy of a Bill introduced in the colony of Victoria, and he found that they contained, in substance, the same provisions. As to the escape of persons from the asylum, only an ordinary surveillance would be required, as there was little danger of the inmates attempting to escape. He would, when in Committee of the Whole, desire to make some alterations in minor details.

Mr. CAMERON held that the Bill was exceedingly objectionable. The money spent on the institution would be thrown away, and the good that would be accomplished would not be commensurate with the expense. He was satisfied it would cost \$1,000 for each patient, and no patient could be expected to pay anything like that amount. If the Government had been satisfied with a cheap experiment he would have consented, but failing that he was opposed to the Bill entirely. He therefore moved that the Bill be read a second time this day three months.

Mr. WOOD (Brant) said he had endeavoured to obtain the best information both as to the success of such institutions, and as to the effect of the institutions upon the inmates. The evidence did not bear out a favourable consideration of them, for it very often happened that those who went into them came out ten-fold worse than when they went in. The reports of such institutions were generally made up by men with whom the reclamation of the drunkard was a hobby, like others who dwelt upon the evil

effects of tobacco, and sought to prove that from its use arose nearly all diseases; and as many young men could not give up the use of tobacco, why should we not have an institute for tobacco smokers? He believed that after all tobacco was doing more harm to the young men of the country than ardent spirits. The reports, to which he referred were written by men who were monomaniacs on the subject, and those were the reports on which the Hon. Secretary placed such reliance as induced him to bring in the present Bill. There had been no agitation for an inebriate asylum in the press or the pulpit, and he held that such an institution would cost a million dollars. There would be \$100,000 spent in its erection, and about \$30,000 yearly in salaries to the staff of officials, provisions, repairs, &c. The Government were rushing into all this expense without a single report to show what number of persons there were in the country who would be likely to become inmates; and after all the money was spent the building would be nothing more than a temperance hotel. So far as the subjective influence of tobacco was concerned, in undermining the body and enervating and weakening the mind, it was as bad as liquor. If he could only be assured that fifty persons would be reclaimed by an inebriate institution in ten years—he would go as far as one of old, who said, "surely the city will not be destroyed if I can find ten honest men;" and if he had the least hope that any benefits would arise from such an institution he would not oppose the Bill. Even as it was he was willing to have the experiment tried on a small scale, but he would not countenance the reckless expenditure which would be involved in carrying out the measure. He had seen Governments before to-day who had done things which the people did not desire, and when their supporters went before their constituents and were questioned as to why they voted for measures not wished for by the country, they were dumb—they could give no satisfactory answers; and their constituents ordered them to be bound hand and foot and cast into outer darkness. (Laughter.) He would vote

the amendment of the hon. member for East Toronto.

Attorney-General MOWAT said his honourable friend seemed to have gone wild on this subject. His remarks respecting the supporters of the Government were uncalled for. That gentleman himself, though an independent member and under no obligations to Government, generally supported them, which showed, he supposed, that they were generally right. His hon. friend was a member of a Government that established several charitable institutions in this country. How was it that the exact number of charitable institutions that should be established had been established, yet that was one of the positions taken by gentlemen opposite. Reference had been made to the state of our finances as a reason why they should not spend the money required for this institution. It certainly would be odd, that in four years they should have hit upon the exact number of these institutions which this country would afford to establish. He did not think so. He thought the resources of this country would warrant this additional expenditure. Our surplus was considerably larger than it was a year ago, and he believed no better way of employing it could be suggested than that proposed by this measure. His hon. friend had stated that popular feeling was not in favour of establishing this institution. He believed that was wrong. There had perhaps been very little discussion on the subject, because all the arguments were on one side. The temperance people had expressed their desire for the institution, and he believed the general sentiment of the people was in the same direction. The question as to whether these institutions were productive of good was no longer one of doubt. They had produced the most beneficial results in the United States, and he himself knew, and he believed other members knew, personally of cases in which persons had gone to them from this country and had obtained a cure which they could not have obtained by any other means. He thought the views of the hon. member for Brant with regard to the expenditure were exaggerated. But if they should find, what he did not believe they would, that the institution was not productive of good commensurate with its expense, they could easily realize from the property the amount of its cost. The hon. gentleman said he would approve of the institution if they could reclaim fifty drunkards; but, from the results of other similar institutions, they might expect to reclaim a much larger number in a short period. It was impossible for them to procure any statistics as to the number of people who would be likely to be admitted to this institution. But they knew that intemperance