

Mr. CAMERON—We did resist it, however. (Laughter.)

Mr. CALVIN thought that too much power could not be given the County Councils. They were in a position to know better what was wanted than the educational authorities at Toronto.

Dr. CLARKE thought that ornamental shade trees ought to be planted in school-yards in order to preserve the children's complexions. (Laughter.) He made other suggestions.

The bill was read a second time.

MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND.

Some discussion occurred as to whether it was in order to resume the debate on the Municipal adjustment scheme. Hon. Mr. Mowat desiring to take up other items on the paper and Mr. Cameron objecting. It was finally agreed that the debate should be resumed to-morrow.

ASSESSMENT ACT.

On motion of Mr. PARDEE the bill to declare the true construction of certain sections of the Assessment Act of 1869 was read a second time.

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY.

The House then took up concurrence in supply.

On the item \$6,000 for Scugog navigation improvement,

Mr. RYKERT said that the Commissioner of Agriculture had promised to bring down certain information respecting this proposed expenditure.

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR could recollect of no such promise.

Mr. CAMERON said that it was quite consistent for a Clear Grit Government to refuse to give the necessary information. The Government proposed to exceed their revenue by about half a million this year, and yet they refuse to give information as to these proposed expenditures. Had the previous Government refused or been unable to give the information now asked for, hon. gentlemen would have been loud in their declamations about the rights of the House and the people, and other hypocritical expressions such as they had promulgated in Opposition, but abandoned when they got into power.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS entered into a lengthy explanation with a view to show that the increase of proposed expenditure was not nearly so much as stated by the hon. member for East Toronto. A large amount of the estimates for this year consisted of re-votes, and he contended that the items representing re-votes should be deducted from the gross amount.

Mr. RYKERT said that the hon. gentleman was very anxious to dissipate the notion that his estimates were greatly in excess of those of the previous year. He would be the first Treasurer of the Province who would have to announce a deficit. By his own admission the hon. gentleman proposed to expend this year \$3,270,000, and all he had to meet it was \$3,000,000, so that there really would be a deficit, notwithstanding the statement of the hon. gentleman and of the organ. The hon. gentleman had forgotten to give credit to a certain hon. member of this House, whose figures he had used and whose mathematical talents he had had the benefit of. He went on to point out the many blunders of which the Treasurer had been guilty in his calculations, and to assert that he (the Treasurer) was hopelessly ignorant of the financial position of the Province. If the Government carry out their proposals of this session the surplus would be reduced to a sum not exceeding one million dollars. The Inebriate Asylum, Central Prison and other public improvements, of which the hon. Treasurer so often boasted, would not bring us in any revenue, but on the contrary, would be an annual and growing charge on the Province. When the Crown Lands Department had run its course it would be found that the revenue anticipated therefrom would not be forthcoming. Under the pilotage of hon. gentlemen the Province was on the highway to direct taxation. (Hear, hear.) Our great public institutions are being yearly expanded by hon. gentlemen at great expense, and these were calculated to enormously increase the annual expenditure. With reference to the item under discussion, it was monstrous on the part of the Government to refuse to give information as to the proposed expenditure on Scugog. He had shown this afternoon in the debate on the Municipal Loan Fund scheme that the northern portions of the Province were being greatly favoured, and this item was another illustration of the truth of that fact.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT thought that the member for Lincoln ought to restrain himself. He was taking up too much time in his

tirades, and he would ask why such a digression should have been made in discussing this item. He then proceeded to discuss the estimates as a whole. The items for the Inebriate Asylum and other proposed public buildings should not be charged as against revenue, but as against capital account.

Mr. FAIRBAIRN said there should be the fullest information as to how this money was to be expended. If the improvement of the Lindsay harbour was contemplated he thought that that town should contribute towards the improvement of that harbour. If this money was required for local improvement it was the duty of the Commissioner of Public Works to have made enquiries as to whether Lindsay would contribute towards the expense. He had thought that it was one of the planks of the platform of the Government which he had supported that all such information should be given, and he must say that he regarded the demand of the hon. member for Lincoln for information as a most legitimate one. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CAMERON said that the Commissioner of Public Works gave the information that the money was required to dredge a mile and a half of the river, but he did not state in his report what public service was intended to be accomplished thereby.

Mr. WOOD (Victoria) knew of no public waters which required improvement more than the navigation of this river. Instead of \$6,000, \$20,000 ought to have been appropriated.

Mr. FAIRBAIRN said that the remark of the hon. member for Victoria made it still more apparent that further information was wanted in this matter.

After some further remarks from Mr. WOOD, (Victoria), the item was concurred in.

On the item \$12,080.73, balance of unexpended re-vote for Settlers Homestead Fund.

In answer to Mr. Rykert,

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR said that, speaking for himself, he was opposed to spending money in this way, because it cost too much.

Mr. CAMERON said if that was the case the hon. Commissioner should not be asking for the reappropriation of the money. He had no doubt that the Fund could be advantageously and economically used, if the plan adopted by the late Government was continued.

Mr. HODGINS, in defence of Mr. A. P. Cockburn, who was alluded to when this part of the estimates was passing through Committee, read a letter from that gentleman denying that he had a brother in the employ of the Ontario Government. With reference to a recent allusion made to himself (Mr. Hodgins), with respect to the appointment of Mr. Scoble, he denied that he had used any influence to secure that appointment.

Mr. MACDONALD thought that the member for Elgin should have heeded the lecture of the Premier to the member of Lincoln on digressions. On the discussion of the estimates in committee he had said, and he now repeated it, that the office created for Mr. Scoble was uncalled for and unnecessary, and that it was a most extraordinary coincidence that the appointee should be the brother-in-law of a very slavish supporter of the Government. (Applause and laughter.)

Mr. CAMERON enquired if the Cockburn employed by the Government was any relative to Mr. A. P. Cockburn?

Mr. HODGINS declined to give any information on the subject.

The item was concurred in.

On the item \$6,000, salaries of three Inspectors of High Schools,

Mr. RYKERT dwelt upon the uncalled for appointment of Prof. McLennan as a third inspector. This Professor had been busying himself in interfering in the Dominion elections in various constituencies, and had even gone so far as to become a candidate for West Toronto. His conduct as a party canvasser and stumper was incompatible with a proper discharge of his duty as inspector, and the House should express its disapprobation of any such conduct on the part of any Government official, especially one employed in so responsible a position as that of a High School official. He would therefore move in amendment that the following words be added to the resolution, "And that this House, while concurring in the item, feels bound to express its opinion that it is highly derogatory to the interests of education that an Inspector of High or Public Schools, should occupy a political position either by candidature for Parliament or by actively engaging in any political contest."

Mr. HODGINS said that the member for Lincoln was inconsistent, inasmuch as he had advocated the candidature of the Solicitor of the University, who was paid by fees, and