

The contract contained no provision for the refusal of the Legislature to accede to the terms, and the Crown was bound to carry out the provisions of the contract. Last session the reasonable amendment that the Government should not be bound to provide 215 criminals for fourteen years was voted down, and the Government during the year had been going on with the buildings. He next found that the contractor suggested, when these contracts had been entered into in this foolish and hurried way, that the works were entirely inadequate for the requirements of the Company, and recommended the making of additions to the building. The work had been greatly increased in value, and would judge from Mr. Langmuir's suggestions that the sum expended far exceeded the original appropriation of \$150,000. They found that the machinery that had been introduced had been far more expensive than ever was anticipated. The original idea was that these convicts should be gathered here for an experiment on a small scale, for the purpose of ascertaining whether they could be made to support themselves by labour. If this one were successful, then it was thought two other Central Prisons might be erected, one in the east and another in the west. But in this prison sufficient machinery had been placed to supply the whole of the railways; engines had also been put in of the value of \$70,000 at least in order that these workshops might be perfected and completed for the Canada Car Company. The Company no doubt looked at this contract with the Government as a very valuable asset. He was told the Company considered it worth a great deal of money. The manager of the Company had represented to him that this contract as an asset was worth £200,000 sterling, and if the Government were to try to cancel it, they would find the Company would not give it up. The Commissioner of Agriculture, having the Central Prison with these gigantic works on his hands, in addition to ordinary labours, no doubt found he was scarcely equal to the work. He (Mr. Lauder) did not know at present how he managed the Agricultural Farm, but that he had made a mess of the Central Prison was too true. He did not charge the hon. gentleman with a wilful violation of his duty, but he had a great deal too much work on his conscience. He did not think the hon. gentleman's colleagues should have allowed the Agricultural Farm and the Central Prison to have proceeded without giving him some assistance. He was informed that the Provincial Secretary was about to devote some of his youthful energy to the Department of Public Works. At any rate, it was necessary that the hon. Commissioner should have assistance. He then referred to the withdrawal of the contract from Mr. Elliott, and said the Commissioner had taken the work in his own hands. He maintained that the Commissioner should have advertised for fresh tenders after having had the work done valued, but instead of that, he took the whole works into his own hands, and employed such contractors as he pleased, and at prices to suit the contractors. He found a curious suggestion of Mr. Papler in one of his letters, which was to the effect that he hoped the Government would give any contract for machinery they might have to his friend Mr. Dickey. The Government did not forget Mr. Dickey, who had been pocketing the money of the Government without any one to check him, because he was a friend of the Commissioner. Perhaps the Commissioner thought he was rewarding Mr. Dickey for the fortune he had made in South Grey. (Laughter.) The hon. Commissioner would find the people would not sanction the course he had adopted with regard to these works. They would demand that the work should be done as cheaply as possible. The Commissioner of Public Works felt it his duty, when an election was about to take place in the city, to exert his influence over the men under his control. Men employed at the prison had stated publicly that they were influenced by the foreman, who told them if they did not vote for Mr. Moss, they would be discharged from their work. (Cries of "No, no.") Two of the men had made solemn oaths to this effect, and a third man, who had made a deposition to which he was subsequently to swear, was taken back to work when the Commissioner of Public Works heard of the deposition he had made. He (Mr. Lauder) would dare the Government to give him a Committee with the power of examining witnesses upon oath, and if this were granted him he would prove to the satisfaction of every one that that which he had stated was true. In order to show what he termed the abuse of power by the hon. gentleman, he referred to the Proton

outrage, which allusion was received with derisive cheers. That rascality was inaugurated by the hon. gentleman before he had taken his seat after his appointment.

The SPEAKER said that the hon. gentlemen was out of order in making that statement.

Mr. LAUDER reiterated that the action of the Commissioner of Public Works in this respect was of a rascally and dastardly nature, and unheard of in the history of the country.

Mr. FAREWELL rose to a point of order.

The SPEAKER again interfered. Mr. LAUDER proceeded to say that it was questionable whether the whitewashing resolutions passed in favour of the hon. gentleman had done him any good. The leader of the Government had characterized the conduct of Lewis as of the grossest kind.

Mr. CURRIE called attention to the circumstance that the discussion was irregular, when

The SPEAKER again called Mr. Lauder to order.

Mr. LAUDER said he was only endeavouring to show that the Commissioner of Public Works had abused the privilege of the Crown. He then stated that during the past year Lewis had been employed by the Government.

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR—I rise to correct the hon. gentleman. I intended by-and-bye to reply to him, but I cannot permit him to state here deliberately what is not a fact. This man has not been employed by the Government in any of its departments.

Mr. LAUDER—Oh! We will see about it.

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR—He has not been employed for a single day by the Government.

Mr. LAUDER said he was informed, upon what he considered good authority, that Lewis was engaged as superintendent of the Colonization Road at Thunder Bay, during the past summer.

The SPEAKER—The hon. gentlemen must see that this is irrelevant to the question under discussion.

Mr. LAUDER maintained that he had a right to proceed, in order to show that the hon. Minister of Public Works had abused the privilege of the Crown. The hon. gentleman would not deny that the man had been engaged by some of the Government agents.

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR—This man has neither been employed directly or indirectly by the Government nor by any of its agents, or anybody under the control of the Government.

Mr. LAUDER went on to charge the Minister of Public Works with abusing his power during the late South Simcoe election, by issuing a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Province for the year 1873 purposely to aid his friends and mislead the electors of South Simcoe. The hon. gentleman actually intimated to the people of that Riding, on the 18th December, that the expenditure for the year 1873 was \$2,600,000. He did not say the probable expenditure. The statement gave what was palpably a falsehood, and that was that the surplus of the Province for 1873 amounted to \$5,833,725 3/4. The hon. gentleman knew that was not true. (Cries of "Order.")

The SPEAKER called Mr. Lauder to order, on the ground that his remarks had no relevancy to the question before the House.

Mr. LAUDER proceeded to refer to this financial statement, when

Hon. Mr. MOWAT rose to call the hon. gentleman to order.

Mr. LAUDER then recapitulated his charges, and said the Reformers would not sanction such conduct on the part of the Commissioner of Public Works, and the people would lose confidence in the Premier if he allowed the hon. gentleman and the foremen of those works to drive the men under their control to vote at elections. He again dwelt upon the charge of coercing the men employed at the Central Prison works, and observed that it was stated that already the expenditures for this work exceeded the appropriation. More money would doubtless be required, and the Commissioner might request his friends to vote the sum he would ask for. He might be sustained by the House, but he would have to account for this extravagant expenditure to the people of the country. He (Mr. Lauder) asked for these returns, because they were anxious to