

prisons in Ontario, and the hon. gentleman acquiesced in the proposal, and supported the proposer. (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman had stated that the original estimate was \$150,000; but he declared that when that estimate was made it was perfectly impossible to say how much the building would ultimately cost. Instead of first deciding what industrial occupation the prisoners should follow, and thus knowing what description of buildings would be required, the Government of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald had proceeded to make an estimate in entire ignorance of the facts which must to a very large extent necessarily determine the cost of the work. Even such necessary buildings to any ordinary prison as a coal house had been omitted from the estimate. Even accepting the basis of that estimate, which was simply the accommodation of 250 prisoners, without any provision for their occupation at any particular industrial employment, it would have cost the country \$180,000 (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman said it would only have cost \$150,000. The hon. gentleman knew nothing at all about the subject (Laughter.) If the hon. gentleman's friend, Mr. Elliot, had got what he wanted, and what he was taking the best means to secure, it would have cost the country over \$200,000. This Government deserved the thanks of the people of Ontario for having taken the contract from Mr. Elliot, and so prevented it costing this sum (Hear, hear.) Mr. Elliot had done all in his power to retard the progress of the work, under the impression that in order to keep faith with the Canada Car Company the Government would be compelled to give him "better terms"—hon. gentlemen opposite would know what that meant. The Government refused to be coerced, and seeing that he would be utterly unable to finish it in time, had taken the work into their own hands. Now the complaint was that the Government did not advertise for new tenders, and thus spend two or three months of what had become precious time, when considered in connection with their obligation to the Car Company. If they had advertised for tenders, and spent these two or three months without doing anything, the hon. gentleman would have charged them with remissness in having so acted. They could not have pleased the hon. gentleman either way, and they did not try to. The Government found that Mr. Elliot had sublet the greater portion of the work to sub-contractors at fixed schedule prices, and they allowed them to continue at these prices. The House and the country would see at once that nothing could be more fair or more economical. Mr. Elliot had himself directly taken charge of the brickwork, and the Government themselves proceeded with that portion under their own superintendence, putting on their own foremen, and carrying on the work in the most efficient and economical way. Another grievance was the contract with the Car Company, regarding which the hon. gentleman had been making some of his usual rash statements. The hon. gentleman knew quite well that there was a special clause in the contract, giving the Government powers of reservation which could not be granted to any individual. But the hon. gentleman asked, Why not have arbitration, as was originally proposed? That was a pretty story! Who ever heard of a Government getting fair play in arbitrations? (Hear, hear.) And what could be more desirable in the interest of the country than that the Government should have the settlement of any difficulty entirely in their own hands—(hear, hear)—rather than leaving the public interests at the mercy of any one, two or three irresponsible arbitrators (Cheers.) He had no doubt if the Government had put in this particular clause, and thus not have protected the country in the best possible manner, it would have been one of the hon. gentleman's principal complaints. (Hear, hear.) It was just another proof of how much hon. gentlemen opposite cared for the interests of the country. The hon. member for South Grey had the interest of the country at heart just about as much as he had studied this subject, and that was precious little. (Cheers and laughter.) Another complaint of the hon. gentleman was that the freehold of this country had been given away. Why, they were giving away the freehold of this country every day by the hundred and the two hundred acres, just as fast as they could get any one to take it (Hear, hear.)

Mr. LAUDER—Not without the sanction of the statute.

Hon. Mr. FRASER—Oh, then, the special grievance is that the Government did

not wait till the House met, and then come down and ask for a special statute, granting the freehold of two acres and a half of land to the Canada Car Company. Why did the honourable gentleman not tell the House that the Steel and Iron Company had a lease of the land which did not expire till 1880, that that Company was finally merged with the Canada Car Company, and that unless that arrangement had been come to, the use of the land could not have been had? (Hear, hear.) If the hon. gentleman had had the interests of the country at heart, he would have mentioned this in connection with his other statements; but no, that would have been too favourable for the Government. The hon. gentleman went further, and said there was not a single reservation.

Mr. LAUDER said that what he had stated was that the land had been given, and the Company were in possession, before the Government had got the consent of the House. The deed was a special deed, and he had read it.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said the hon. gentleman ought to have read the other things too, and he would have been more careful in his statements. (Hear, hear.) No doubt the hon. gentleman would add much to the strength of the Opposition, when he went forth and made this important statement to the country. (Laughter.) There would just be such another terrible demonstration as when the hon. gentleman announced at the dinner at Brantford that this Government had actually expended, for a chrome of "little Mrs. —" so many dollars, and for the likeness of Her Majesty Queen Victoria they only expended so much less. (Loud laughter.) The report added "Great sensation"; no doubt there was. (Renewed laughter.) Reverting again to the Central Prison, he said that had the Sandfield Macdonald Government done what they ought to have done, they would have concluded upon the occupation of the prisoners before they submitted estimates for the building of the place where that occupation was to be carried on, so that the foundations, walls, and workshops would have been built to suit the machinery employed. As it was they had not done so, and a great many changes were necessary in consequence. The original estimate was never intended to be a complete and final estimate; and he could tell the hon. gentleman that the engineer of the Department who had charge of the work calculated that the estimate was too low, even excepting the question of workshops and machinery. As to the number of prisoners, the original estimate calculated upon 200, while the present estimates made provision for about 340. The hon. gentleman concluded by saying that every cent expended in connection with the work would be fully accounted for to the House and the country, and they would find that the Government had not only dealt honestly with their interests, but had actually, by their energy, vigilance, and foresight, saved the expenditure of many thousands of dollars. (Cheers.)

The motion, with the words "except such of the papers as have already been brought down" added, was then agreed to.

#### THE LIBRARY.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT moved that the following be appointed a Select Committee of Seven, to assist Mr. Speaker in controlling the Library:—Messrs. Mowat, Crooks, Cameron, Hodgins, Christie, Rykert, and Wood. He explained that the Committee was the same as last year, with the exception of the Hon. E. B. Wood, who was not now a member of the House, and in whose place the name of Mr. Hodgins was inserted.

The motion was carried.

#### REPORT PRESENTED.

Hon. Mr. FRASER presented the fourth annual report of the Registrar General.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. SCOTT inquired what was the intention of the Government with regard to the adjournment of the House.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said he did not know that there was any necessity for immediate decision on the part of the Government with