

improved state of things to what formerly existed. But still he thought that every one feels that the election law requires to be amended, for its provisions as interpreted by the judges were such as to render it scarcely possible for an election to be held. The law required to be amended in two very important features. Particulars against a candidate receiving a petition ought to be defined by statute, and persons ought not to be allowed to put in a petition, and afterwards go fishing for evidence for the next six months with the hope of something turning up. Another matter in connection with the election law which required to be amended was in reference to the decisions of the Courts on election trials. As the cases were now reported it was scarcely possible for the country to learn what was the state of the law. There ought to be official reports given of election trials, so that the country might know what the law was on this matter. There should not be the impression among the people that a case was decided in one way in one court and in another way on similar evidence in another court. They were promised that the law as to voters' lists would be amended. He was glad of this, as many difficulties existed in the correction of the lists. He considered that any changes made should come before the Division Court. The voters' lists should be left open the whole time, for it is desirable that all who are entitled to the franchise should have the fullest notice given them. He believed that much difficulty would be found in extending the ballot to municipal elections, for generally the candidates were numerous, and no doubt they would find it very complicated to use the ballot in municipal elections. Reference had been made to trade being in a very depressed state. He thought the House would see that the cause of this depression is not attributable to anything in this Province, or this Dominion, or the Empire, but that it is due to monetary depression which exists in the country with which they are largely connected, and this scarcity of money must have an effect on the trade of this country. He hoped that the depression he alluded to would soon pass away. Then there is the large question as to the railway policy which this Province should adopt. The country ought not to be in too great a hurry in regard to this matter. Every one would admit the great benefit that railways had been to this country, but still it was possible to look up the money of the country by sinking it in railways, so that the present depression might not be relieved but perhaps even aggravated. While this House has ever been willing to extend the progress of the country by granting to railways such assistance which in their wisdom they may see fit, and with a liberality equal to that shown in older countries, yet the Government must take care that the trade of the country is not in a more depressed state than at present by the looking up and sinking more capital in works, some of which may not be very productive. The subject of immigration is one which this House, as well as the whole Dominion, have given much attention to, for it was a question which was of great interest to every public man both in this Province and in the Dominion. There was a certain number of immigrants who would always be coming here whether the Government spent money for immigration or not, and there were also a number of immigrants who came who were dissatisfied with the Province and the Dominion. If they wished to have a share of the surplus population of older countries they must adopt such means and offer such facilities as will place the advantages of this country before intending immigrants. He felt sure that any appropriation made by the Government in this direction would not only receive the assent of this House, but of the people of the Province. (Hear.) The consolidation of the statutes as referred to in the Speech is a question which will be duly considered by this House, for it is desirable that the country should know what the law is, and it is in the interests of the country that the law should be made so comprehensive as to bring it within the knowledge of those who have to administer it, more particularly magistrates and those who are not lawyers. The matter would no doubt receive from this House that consideration and be treated with that fairness which the subject demands. The institutions which his Honour the Lieutenant Governor visited lately were a credit to the country and the Province, and the matter which his Honour invites

the attention of this House to, namely, the condition of one class of the unfortunate portion of the community, is one which this House will see the necessity of dealing with. The matter of proter returns being furnished of vital statistics is one which the country feels very much interested in. A tabulated statement of vital statistics was very desirable, and he thought it was the duty of this House to see that these statistics were as comprehensive as possible. The question of paying criminal witnesses was one which required their serious consideration. It must be agreed that no premium should be given for evidence in Crown cases. Whatever allowance was made to witnesses, it would be wise that no premium should be given to witnesses giving evidence on the part of the Crown. He did not think that those restrictions should apply to constables and coroners. He learned with satisfaction that the question of the eastern boundary had been settled, and no doubt the House would feel satisfied if they had the assurance, as he trusted they would soon have, that the other boundaries were settled as satisfactorily. It is a matter that has caused much difficulty between the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. A long time has elapsed since it was first begun, but these differences have not yet been brought to a close. They were promised the accounts of the Province up to September 30th last, and it is hoped that these accounts will show the available assets of the Province to be such as to reassure the country, and call forth a continuance of that confidence which the people had in the management of affairs. While some gentlemen were of opinion that there ought not to be any such thing as surplus funds, yet he did not think it would be wise to exhaust the surplus money the Government had in hand. (Hear.) There was one question which was not alluded to in the Address, that was the trade in intoxicating liquors. If the law was changed in that direction it would take away some of the revenue received from it. He contended that this question was one which should not by any means be taken up as a political question. The people expected them to do what is honest and fair to the country in this matter. When the question comes up it must be dealt with not as coming from this side of the House or that side, but it must be dealt with in a spirit and manner which the whole country hope and expect they will deal with it—the question must be dealt with honestly and fairly as the country hopes and anticipates; but if the question should take the shape many hoped it would, it would take away some of the revenue of the country. He considered it was not wise to exhaust the surplus revenue of the country, but they ought rather to husband it. He congratulated the gentlemen on the Treasury benches that they are enabled to present a satisfactory balance sheet as promised. In conclusion he reiterated the hope expressed by his Honour the Lieut. Governor that the deliberations of this House will be conducted in the interest of the Province, and he believed the gentlemen who are here hope and will join in the one common desire, and all will make an effort to realize the hope his Honour expressed that their deliberations will be such as will conduce to the welfare of the Province and honour of this House. (Cheers.) He had great pleasure in seconding the motion.

On the first paragraph being put,

Mr. CAMERON asked if it was the intention of the Government to offer any explanations of various paragraphs in the Speech, such as those relating to the new system of immigration, the causes leading to the proposition to pay criminal witnesses, the reasons for suggesting that aid should be given to railways, and the nature of the aid contemplated.

Mr. MOWAT said it was not customary in the debate upon the Address to give more detailed information than the House might be already in possession of, or the Speech might contain. On all the subjects referred to, the Government meant to give the amplest information at the proper time, but it was not customary to bring down the returns till after the Speech had been answered. He imagined the hon. gentleman was already in possession of sufficient information to enable him to give an intelligent vote on the resolution. All matters relating to immigration were public matters, and they had almost daily information in reference to them in the newspapers. He was astonished at the honourable gentleman's expression of