

asked for information on some points before voting for the Address. It was not customary to make an attempt to give details on the various matters stated in the Speech.

Mr. MACDOUGALL—I do not ask for details.

Mr. MOWAT said he did not exactly know what amount of information the hon. gentleman wanted. He possessed a good deal now, but not so much as he would by-and-bye. He had forgotten a good deal, and probably would have to relearn it. He had stated that the payment of criminal witnesses had been alluded to in almost every Speech he had read during the long time he had been in public life. He (Mr. Mowat) had only read it in one Speech, and he thought his hon. friend's fancy was carrying him away in that matter as it had carried him away in many other matters. (Laughter and cheers.) He had adopted as a pet subject the boundaries of the Province, and had already given notice of a Bill on the subject. He (Mr. Mowat) was quite ready for the discussion. The hon. gentleman objected to negotiations for a compromise, and asked whether the Government were going to compromise before referring to the representatives of the people. Negotiations must precede any arrangement, and he supposed that if they were fortunate enough to find a line which they could assent to, and which would satisfy the Dominion authorities also, they should agree to it, necessarily subject to the sanction of this House. No line they could agree to would be effectual until assented to by the House. In reference to the paragraph stating that we had still in our hands Quebec's share of the proceeds of the sale of the school lands, the hon. gentleman was surely aware all along that that was the case. Perhaps he had forgotten that some years ago there was an arbitration between Ontario and Quebec, and that an award was made which Quebec refused to carry out, though we were perfectly satisfied with it. We had been endeavouring to get Quebec to agree to carry it out, but they would not, and so we were left in possession of what assets we would have had without any award. It was satisfactory to know that although we had not all the assets the award would have given us, we had a portion of them, and all the proceeds of the sale of school lands received since, including Quebec's share. We could not tell what that share was unless the award was taken as the basis, and so it could not be paid over to Quebec. It was satisfactory that we did not lose anything, and that was why the statement was put in the Address. The hon. gentleman wanted to know how the desire of the Chief Superintendent of Education to retire came about. The hon. member would be informed by the member for East Toronto that before this Government came into office at all, when the country had the misfortune to have another Government in office, of which the gentleman from East Toronto was a member, the Chief Superintendent urged his desire to resign in a formal communication, and he believed in addition expressed an opinion which he had expressed several times since, that the office should be held by a Minister. He did not know whether that was because he was dissatisfied with the school policy of that Government or not, but the member for South Simcoe would see that it was not a new thing. The Chief Superintendent was 73 or 74 years of age, and had held his office for upwards of thirty years, and he did not think it at all unreasonable to consent to his withdrawing. It then became necessary to consider whether the present system should be continued. He had given the hon. gentleman more information than was customary or necessary at this stage, and he hoped he would consequently express his entire satisfaction with it, and would concur in the Address. (Cheers.)

Mr. CAMERON said the Address was meagre in matters of importance, and he was glad to find the Attorney-General forced to acknowledge that it was to the pertinacity of the Opposition that they were indebted for the promised measure in relation to the payment of criminal witnesses. (Ironical cheers.) The measure was promised in the Speech opening the session during which the Government of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald ceased to exist, and hon. gentlemen had to admit their inability to grapple with it ever since. The Attorney-General had been quite as much in the county of Victoria during the recent election as he (Mr. Cameron) and his hon. friend, and the Commissioner of

Public Works was there also, for the worst purpose in the world—to endeavour to stir up religious feeling. (Laughter and Opposition cheers.) Hon. gentlemen had been running all round the country, into every constituency, and the amendments to the law had been provided for them by a Commission. He regretted very much to find the words "His Honour" imported into this Address. If they were not permitted to call him "His Excellency" they should not give him any term whatever except simply "the Lieutenant-Governor." There was not a Governor in the Republican United States who was not addressed as "His Excellency," and he could not conceive that the Lieutenant-Governor of this important Province should be addressed by any lesser title. If, however, they must drop the term, they ought not to apply the title "His Honour" to him, as it was an inferior title which ought not to be applied to the gentleman who filled that important position. There were no reforms in the election law which had had any beneficial effect in the late general election which had not been made before the present Government took office. Partisans of the hon. gentleman had given notice to a returning-officer in Wentworth not to open the poll under a penalty of \$2,000 because his name was not set out in full. He supposed that was not a reform. He admitted that the holding of the elections on one day had been strongly urged by Reformers in times past, but they had violated their principle in the recent elections, which had been held so as to suit the convenience of Ministers and allow them to travel from one constituency to another to assist their friends. He was totally opposed to the extension of the ballot to voting upon by-laws. Though his political friends had benefitted by the ballot he had always thought it was not a manly straightforward way of voting, besides which it was much more expensive than open voting. As to aid to railways, he had always thought it was in the interest of the country to encourage enterprises which would open up the back country. He did not believe it was possible to build a railway in this country without beneficial results flowing from it, and he thought it was proper that we should always have money in the treasury in order that we might undertake enterprises of public importance, and give employment to those who suffered in times of depression. More information ought to be given in regard to immigration. It was extraordinary that his Honour, in his recent visits to public institutions, had seen none except those designed by the late Administration. In reference to vital statistics, he thought when the late Government permitted a private member to introduce a measure providing for their collection they did not accomplish anything in the interest of the country. The collection of statistics ought to belong to the Dominion Government rather than to the separate Provinces, and unless this scheme was calculated to accomplish the end fully and completely, it was not in the interest of the country to have any further legislation on the subject. He complained that the House had not yet had the Public Accounts for 1874.

Mr. CROOKS—They are ready.

Mr. CAMERON said they ought to be on the table, and ought to have been distributed long ago.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

Mr. CAMERON continuing, said that the Government thought it necessary for the purpose of showing their strength, and how much they had gained since the previous election, to send their Treasurer from West Toronto to the East for the purpose of defeating himself (Mr. Cameron). The result was that the Treasurer had to wander throughout the country seeking a resting-place, but was unable to find one till he reached the extreme Grit constituency of South Oxford. This scarcely demonstrated the growing strength and influence in the country of hon. gentlemen opposite. He dare say they thought they had returned to the House with a force as strong as in the last Parliament, but no doubt the discussion they had, and the difficulty they experienced in coercing their followers on the election of the Speaker, must have convinced them that their influence was on the wane, even in this House. (Laughter.) It was all very well for the Commissioner of Public Works to laugh, but he (Mr. Cameron) had