

until it was finally extended to universal suffrage. (Hear and laughter.) He did not mean to say that he was at present an advocate for universal suffrage, but he thought, when the country departed from what he might call the good old Conservative doctrine of the 40s franchise there was only one step between that and universal suffrage. A large number of people had been let in who were not so well entitled to vote as many who were excluded. In the cities—and what held good in the cities was to a large extent true in other places—almost every scavenger lived in some hut which entitled him to a vote, while the young men in the universities, in the lawyers' offices, and in the wholesale stores, and farmers' sons in the country were deprived of the suffrage. He thought young men who were intelligent and active politicians were entitled to vote. They had got into fancy franchises, and ruled out no class to whom the franchise could be safely given, and he considered they might as well go at once to universal suffrage. He was not, however, speaking from the Government point of view. He had no doubt that their measure on this subject, like most of those which they had introduced, would be a step in the right direction. He observed that the Minister of Education promised to introduce a Bill in regard to education and to endeavour to provide a sufficient number of trained teachers for the schools of the Province. The educational institutions of Ontario had attained a very high position in this country, and he might say in the world. In fact they were the equals of those of almost any country. He had no doubt that under the present Minister the system would be largely extended and that we should soon be able to outstrip every other nation. He hoped to be as liberal as anyone in regard to this matter, but taxation had been increasing so rapidly that he was not sure that some check should not be placed on the almost unlimited power of taxation exercised by the School Trustees. That power had been frequently abused, and exercised in the most arbitrary and not very intelligent manner; and should be checked in some way, without interfering with the educational system of the country. He regretted to notice that it was necessary to extend the accommodation for the unfortunate class of lunatics. The House and the country had for years been called upon to vote additional sums for the extension of the accommodation in the Lunatic Asylums, and he hoped the House would be willing to vote any reasonable sum for further necessary extension, but he thought some step should be taken to go to the root of the evil. Insanity was on the increase. Some of their friends would tell them it was the result of the use of alcoholic drinks, but statistics showed that, while insanity was on the increase, the use of alcoholic drinks was on the decrease. He had been acquainted with several gentlemen who had required this kind of accommodation, and none of them had been addicted to the use of alcoholic drinks. In almost every case the men were hardworking, industrious, shrewd, able business men. He had the opinion of one very intelligent medical man, whose reputation was not limited to this country, but was wider than this continent, that the non-use of intoxicating drinks by hardworking men might be more the cause of insanity than the other extreme. He was not an advocate of alcoholic drinks, but was mentioning a fact as stated to him by a man whose reputation was world-wide. It also appeared necessary to extend the accommodation for deaf mutes. It was not necessary for him to add a word to the encomiums which had so often been passed on the medical gentleman who had these patients under his charge at Belleville, and he fancied the House would have pleasure in voting for any necessary extension. Additional accommodation had also to be provided for another unfortunate class—the blind. He had seen a great deal of the oculists in Canada and in the United States, and he trusted the Government would see that the very best men were engaged in the care of the blind of this country, as he knew that we were sadly deficient of able officers, to a large degree at all events. However able the gentleman in charge of the asylum at Brantford might be, he hoped he was sufficient for his position. If not, and better medical advice could be obtained, he trusted that steps would be taken to secure it. He saw the House was to be called upon to vote further aid to railways this year. Probably few men felt more than he did the necessity of opening up and developing the country, but he was not very strongly in favour of build-

ing competing lines of railway. The credit of the country had suffered from some of them. We owed a great deal to the Grand Trunk, Great Western, and some other old lines, and he questioned the wisdom of building up lines of road to compete with them. In the development of roads to open up new sections of country the House should be liberal. He did not know what roads the Government proposed to aid, but he had no doubt, when their scheme was submitted, that it would meet the approbation of the House. He thought the House and the country might as well take the ground first at last, that railways could not be built to every man's door. Some people had an interest in getting up a railway scheme, they obtained bonuses, forced the scheme upon the country, and having some work done, said a great deal of money had been spent which must not be lost, and so the country must go on and finish the road. This sort of thing might be continued indefinitely, and unless a stop was put to it there was no knowing where it would end. He noticed with pleasure a portion of the speech relating to a fire-proof building in which to secure the records of the Crown Lands Department. He had no knowledge of the shape the proposal might take—whether a large vault would be constructed, or a building sufficient for the accommodation of the Department erected. He presumed, however, from the guarded wording of the paragraph, that the Government did not intend to make this a start for new Parliament buildings. The Government seemed to have determined not to take that course. He, for one, would have been happy to see them take it. (Hear, hear.) He knew the valuable nature of the Crown Lands records, and how they were exposed to destruction. The County Council had built fire-proof registry offices and how much more important was it to have a fire-proof building at the capital for the Crown Lands records. If they were swept away half the registry offices would be of no use, as it would be impossible to secure again the books and papers which were stored up in the Department, or even to get an intelligent knowledge of what had been done. He knew the city of Toronto was anxious for the buildings to be constructed, and that in the country there had been a feeling against that construction. The city of Toronto was, he thought, to blame for that feeling, as the country believed that the party papers of the city, while they flew at each other's throats and fought to the last on party questions, were willing to join in the interests of the city, and to fight against and squelch and kill schemes which would benefit the whole country because they might be opposed to the particular interests of Toronto. He did not say that this view was correct, but it existed. In regard to the Parliament Buildings, the country was much interested as the city, or more, because the records of the Crown Lands Department belonged more to the country than to the city. He represented a rural constituency, though he lived in the city, and had been accused of being an anti-Toronto man, but he hoped to see not only a new Crown Lands building, but the commencement of new Parliament buildings for the Province. The estimates were shortly to be laid before the House, and he hoped they would be somewhat more liberal than the Government might feel disposed to make them. He was not very strongly in favour of the Government hoarding large sums of money. The Government should tax the people for what was necessary to carry on the affairs of the country, but when they did more they went beyond their duty. He did not see the necessity of hoarding large sums of money in banks and stocks and things of that sort. He hoped the estimates would be liberal in the matter of colonization roads. In 1873 there was a vote of \$170,000 for that purpose, when the number of people was small compared with what it was to day. The district of Parry Sound, the island of St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie, and the whole district of Algoma were then only being opened up, and yet for some years the Government had been cutting down the appropriation. He fancied from what he heard that the appropriation this year would not be as much as last year. If so, he should regret it very much. They all desired to see the country built up. The Dominion Government were making herculean efforts to bring settlers to the country, and one settler in Muskoka was of more value to Ontario than ten settlers in Manitoba. Many of the colonization roads were mere trails, 30 feet wide, on which the