

bid so authoritatively for a portion of the world's trade. (Cheers.) It was, however, no surprise to those who knew the ability of our manufacturers, the enterprising character of our people in general, and the magnitude of our resources. (Loud cheers.) He agreed in a certain measure with the remarks of the hon. member for Muskoka in reference to the importance of bringing down the Estimates at an early day. He would also say that, although we had little to do with the matter of taxation, he should regret to see our present surplus greatly diminished, as the time would come when the present sources of our revenue would inevitably decrease. He thought it would be very wise to retain as much of a balance as we could properly do. Even if it was not expended by the Government it would not be unproductive of benefit, for if deposited in our banks it would circulate among the people and help to develop the resources of the country. With regard to the erection of a suitable building for the accommodation of the Crown Lands Records, he regretted to notice that among some of the newspapers a certain amount of jealousy existed about the city of Toronto. He also regretted that the Toronto press had seen fit to take any notice of that jealousy. For his own part no such jealousy existed in his mind. They acknowledged Toronto as the capital of the Province; they looked with pride at its stately buildings and its rapid growth in past years. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) He believed that every hon. member from outside the city, coming here to take his seat in the House for the first time, looked with regret at the mean building—he could not describe it in other words—(hear)—in which their deliberations took place. He trusted that the measure of the Government with regard to the Crown Lands Department would form part of a general scheme for the construction of new Parliamentary buildings, which in convenience, size, and appearance would meet the requirements of, and be a credit to, this Province. (Hear, hear.) He hoped a large amount would not be expended in the erection of a vault, which would soon have to be pulled down, but that any expense involved at present would not be lost upon the new buildings which would soon have to be erected. His Honour had expressed the hope that the deliberations of the House would receive the Divine blessing. He (Mr. Massie) sincerely joined in that hope, and trusted that in all the arguments they might advance upon the measures coming before them a spirit of wisdom would so direct them that they might receive the blessing of that Divine Legislature that overruled all their deliberations, and that while they sought the welfare of the people, they would at the same time seek the promotion of His Honour. (Loud cheers.)

Resolutions 1, 2, 3, and 4, were passed.

On Resolution 5,

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) asked if the reports which were promised as to the working of the law respecting the sale of spirituous liquors would include a statement of the cost of that law to the country.

Mr. MOWAT said they would.

The 5th resolution was adopted.

On the 6th,

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) said that he supposed that before the House was called upon to assent to the agreement for the purchase of the Rockwood Asylum, hon. members would have full particulars regarding any agreement that might have been made. For his part, he had not been aware that any negotiations were in progress. At present, with the information he had before him, he should feel inclined to dispute the propriety of the purchase, for he could not see what was to be gained by buying an institution which the Dominion Government would have to replace. It would only be laying another burden on the people of this Province, and unless there was some pressing necessity for it, he should be inclined to think the purchase an unwise one.

Mr. MOWAT said that the matter had been taken up years ago, before he had a seat in the House, so far at least as authorizing negotiations to be carried on. This was during Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's administration. Since that time an Act had been passed by the Dominion Parliament authorizing the Minister of Public Works to make an agreement with the Commissioner of Public Works for Ontario, subject to the approval of the Dominion Parliament and this Legislature, so that the matter had been long before the country. A very small portion of the building was occupied by criminal

lunatics; there were only about twenty patients in it he believed, and it was thought that it was useless to keep so large a building for so few occupants. The intention was to provide room for the present inmates in the penitentiary, the accommodations of that building having been found by experience to be sufficient. The rest of the building was occupied by patients for whom an annual grant was required, and they felt that it would be rather anomalous to continue an arrangement whereby a part of the institution was under the control of the Dominion Government, the remainder of the building being occupied by patients for whom an annual grant was required. The particulars would be furnished before the House was asked to assent to the purchase, as the report of the Inspector would contain all the details necessary in order to form a correct judgment of the matter.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) said that he observed that the Government found that they could not do better than adopt the scheme of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald. (Laughter.)

Mr. MOWAT said that he could find no record of any agreement that Mr. Sandfield Macdonald had made on the subject. If there was one he should like to know where it was to be found.

The resolution was adopted.

On the seventh resolution,

Mr. CLARKE (Norfolk) said he could not let this resolution pass without referring to one remark made by the hon. gentleman who had moved the Address. He (Mr. Clarke) had yet to learn that the oculists of Canada were not as able as any on the continent to treat diseases of the eye. He had sat at the feet of the leading oculists in New York, and he could not for his part see that the Americans were superior to the Canadians in the treatment of eye diseases. He wished also to refer to another matter touched upon by the hon. member for Muskoka. He (Mr. Clarke) contended that there was no co-relation between the fact that lunacy was increasing and drunkenness was decreasing—if the latter was a fact. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

On the ninth resolution,

Mr. MACDOUGALL wished to know if the hon. gentleman who had seconded the Address—and whom he wished to congratulate upon the able and laud manner in which he had performed the duty—was speaking the opinion of the Government in some remarks he had made in reference to new Parliament buildings? If it were so the House had a right to know it. Speaking for himself, he thought that a building which had answered its purposes for so many years would, with occasional repairs, answer a little longer. In view of the expenditure indicated by the measures of the Government, he did not think that either the people of the city or those of the Province in general would favour the erection of new buildings at present. He believed the records of the Departments had been pretty safe so far, and if necessary they might add another fire-proof vault for the papers belonging to other Departments than the Crown Lands Office, in which one had recently been placed. If there was danger of fire the expense of another watchman or two would not be very great. As mention had been made by some hon. gentlemen of the discussion of this matter in the newspapers, he might say that so far as he had observed the matter had apparently been treated with a desire to secure what was best in the public interest. If the Government did undertake the erection of new buildings, they would find that their first estimate would fall very far short of the actual amount required. This, as had been learned by experience, was generally the case in erecting new public buildings.

Mr. MOWAT said the hon. members who had supported the erection of new Parliament buildings had not professed to be expressing the policy of the Government on that point. All the Government had asked the House to consider was, whether the erection of a proper building for the greater security of the Crown Lands Office should not be proceeded with now instead of being longer delayed. Three or four years ago the House expressed a very strong opinion that something more should be done for the security of the public records, and a vote was taken for the purpose; but there had been difficulties in the way which they might discuss on another occasion. Night watchmen might diminish the chances of fire, but they could not prevent fires taking place. So far as the buildings could be protected by night watchmen, they were now protected. It would be one of the most disastrous things which could occur to the