

Province for these records to be destroyed. A time would come when this work must be proceeded with, and so far as this particular building was concerned, the question for the House to consider was whether it should be delayed any longer or not. Nothing had been intimated on the part of the Government of any intention to proceed with the Parliament buildings.

Mr. MACDOUGALL—Is it contemplated that this building is to be on these grounds or at some other place?

Mr. MOWAT said the details would be given when they brought down the scheme. If a building was to be erected this year, no doubt it must be on the present ground.

Mr. LAUDER said he thought it better to discuss the Address as a whole, instead of in detail. There was very little new in the Address. The House had voted money for the erection of a fire-proof building some time ago, but the Government had not used the money, and had not vouchsafed any explanation why they had not used it. The building could not be made part of the new Parliament buildings, unless the Reform principle, that all plans and specifications should first be submitted to the House, was abandoned. He congratulated the member for South Wellington on his speech in seconding the Address, but had been surprised to hear the mover of the Address differing so much from the Government. The proposal to give votes to farmers' sons had been inserted not on principle, but merely to catch the ears of the farmers. If the Sandfield Macdonald Government had been in power half as long as the present Government, the question of the arbitration between Ontario and Quebec would have been settled long ago; but nothing had been done since they went out of office. He was sorry that one of the Commissioners on the Boundary Question had resigned, and thought too much money had been already expended on that matter. The Public Accounts for 1876 were promised, but the accounts for 1875 were not yet in members' hands, and the investigation into those of 1874 had been a perfect farce. He advised hon. gentlemen to call the Public Accounts Committee together as soon as possible. The leader of the Government had failed to advise His Excellency to say anything in reference to exemptions. The reason for this was that the Government was divided on the subject. One member of the Government had declared that he would not accede to what the country demanded on this matter, and the great organ which kept hon. gentlemen in their places told the Government they should grant this. The hon. gentleman was, therefore, in a difficulty, and he would probably make it an open question in the House and in the country. The Government were silent, and would probably remain silent until they had come to some decision. The Attorney-General had indicated to deputations that he considered this an important matter. The hon. gentleman had received a deputation in reference to a private Bill, which he thought he had no right to do. He hoped the House would not be asked to vote any money whatever until they had the Departmental Reports in their hands. Sandfield Macdonald had placed the affairs of the country in such a shape that the present Government had found very little to do. They had introduced no sound reform, and had injured several of the laws. The recent trial in Lincoln had shown that a great mistake had been made in the amendments to the Controverted Elections Law. He should like to know if the report on the License Law would show the politics of the Commissioners, the Inspectors, and the Licensees. It had been stated in the public prints that the Treasurer had obtained a return of the politics of the applicants.

Mr. CROOKS—Not of the applicants; of those who received licenses.

Mr. LAUDER—At what time?

Mr. CROOKS—Long after the licenses had been granted.

Mr. LAUDER said he should like to see the return of the poor Conservatives and the fortunate Reformers, or the reverse, as the case might be.

Mr. MOWAT—The Conservatives got most of the licenses. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr. LAUDER said the Attorney-General seemed much delighted at that. He wondered he had not put a paragraph in the Address congratulating the country on the fact that the Tories were all drunkards. (Laughter.)

Mr. HARDY—Why don't you move to

amend it to that effect? (Loud laughter and applause.)

Mr. LAUDER said he believed all the inspectors, and he thought the Commissioners also, were Grits.

Mr. BELL—Except the judges.

Mr. LAUDER said he thought some of the appointments had been very improper, but he would discuss that in another place. He did not agree with the statement that this Act had lessened drinking. In the city of Toronto there was as much drinking, and as much drunkenness, and as many or more people punished for drunkenness, as before the passing of the Bill. The Government had immediately dispensed with the services of the old license inspectors, and none but Grits had found it of any use to apply for the position.

Resolutions 9, 10, 11, and 12 were then carried.

On Resolution 13,

Mr. MACDOUGALL said that the question of the Provincial boundaries was one that should be determined as a legal question, and brought before the highest legal tribunal, instead of being left to arbitrators. He would like to know if any progress had been made in the arbitration, as nothing on that point was indicated in the speech. There were vague hints about a provisional line having been determined upon, but it was not stated when. Mention was also made of questions which for two centuries had given occasion to keen controversy and fierce conflicts between the nations and the great public bodies. He would like to know if all this was introduced to impress the House with the gravity of the question? He was not aware that there had been anything of the kind mentioned in regard to the western boundary of Ontario, which was really the only question of any importance. The northern boundary was one of very little consequence to us, as it did not involve the possibilities of settlements in that region, the administration of justice, and so on. Sir John Macdonald, who was perhaps as competent an authority as any in the country on a matter of this kind, was of opinion that the question should be brought before the Privy Council as a law case, and it would then be brought to an issue at once. Referring to the License Law, he said he refused to be classed in the category of those who were opposed to legislation in that direction, but he was of opinion that the measure of the Government had failed. For one thing, it had tended to produce perjury to a very large extent throughout the country. It had taken a large source of revenue from the municipalities without securing such benefits as amounted to a justification of the measure. If the Government had, as the hon. member for East Grey had said, used the law for the purpose of creating offices for their friends and gaining support, he did not think they had been greatly benefitted by the result, politically speaking. He hoped there would be a thorough revision of the public accounts, and that the reports of the Departments would be brought down at an early day.

Mr. DEACON said he wished to make a few remarks about the second and fifteenth paragraphs, those relating to the Consolidation of the Statutes and to the Estimates. He thought that the consolidation of the laws was a matter upon which the House might congratulate itself. It would prove not only an advantage to lawyers—for they might perhaps gain something by their remaining in their present state—but to all connected with municipal government. He hoped that it would tend to repress the inclination of many hon. members to get small and unimportant amendments to the law carried through the House, amendments which may be of some use to a particular portion of the country, but were not of general utility. He hoped that when the Government placed sums on the estimates for certain works, these works would be carried out. This had not been done in the case of a bridge over the Mattewan River in his (Mr. Deacon's) constituency. He believed, contrary to the opinion of the mover of the Address, that the colonization roads had proved of the very greatest benefit, and the only fault he found was that there were not enough of them. He hoped the appropriations in this direction would be liberal. He found, however, that since he had been returned as an opponent of the Government he had not been able to secure very much for colonization roads in his constituency. Referring to the Boundary question, he hoped that the referees would not lose sight of the