

enable the Public Accounts Committee to thoroughly investigate all the items. Of late years the Public Accounts had contained much more full statements in reference to many particulars than formerly, especially in relation to certain funds, such as the Municipalities Fund, the Surplus Distribution, the two Railway Funds, and so on; and if they were to be prepared in such a way as to stand as a perpetual record, it was necessary to make them not only explicit in regard to the Treasury Department, but in regard to all others with which the Treasury Department had any connection. It was at all events an advantage to be able to see the operations of the entire year, so as to contrast them with what had occurred in former years. With three exceptions, this House had never had the complete accounts of the year, these exceptions being when Mr. Wood was Treasurer, and his hon. friend opposite. The utmost attempted at other times had been to give the accounts for the previous year with a statement for nine or ten months of the current year. Mr. Mackenzie had taken occasion, in consequence of the length of the session of 1872, to bring down the Public Accounts of the previous year in full in February. In 1873 he (Mr. Crooks) had been able to bring down the Public Accounts in February, and also in the first session of 1874, but that involved a great deal of difficulty. Unless the session were prolonged to the month of March in each year, it would be difficult to present the Public Accounts in that complete form which would be satisfactory if they were to remain as a permanent record. The items of expenditure which he proposed to submit for 1877 would be sufficient for all practical purposes. When the House assembled at this period it was not desirable that the business of the public should be delayed.

Mr. CAMERON said an account of receipts and expenditure was not so instructive as the full Public Accounts, and the Committee could not discover the real state of affairs unless the printed details were in their hands. He hoped the Treasurer, before the close of the session, would endeavour to give the House the full reports for 1876 in print. The investigations before the Public Accounts Committee were not satisfactory, and there was no opportunity to conduct them properly unless the proper details were before them in print. If the Government could supply them with a full statement of receipts and expenditure in a week, they ought to be able to give them the Public Accounts very soon.

Mr. CLARKE (Norfolk) expressed the hope that the business of the House would not be delayed this session very often by the absence of the leaders of the Opposition. He hoped also that the Attorney-General would bring in a motion to have the sittings of the House begin at 11 o'clock in the morning instead of 3 in the afternoon. If the country was to be put to the expense of the additional light in order that lawyers might make money in the Courts in the early part of the day, then the country should know it. Referring to the address, he said that he was not in favour of universal suffrage, but he thought that the most intelligent and sensitive part of the communities—the ladies—(laughter)—should have votes under the present Election Law, and he hoped in a short time to introduce a measure for that purpose. (Hear, hear.) If any changes were made in the School Law he hoped that the suggestion of the member for Muskoka would not be acted upon, so far, at least, as to make Boards of Trustees too subservient to County Councils, as from long experience as a school trustee he was sure that such a change would impair the efficiency of our school system. He believed the people would very properly condemn the expenditure of money in erecting new Parliament buildings before they had received full value for that expended in repairing the present ones. It would be better to expend the money in reducing our Provincial debt. He was more in favour of helping colonization roads and other purely agricultural interests than in aiding railways, though there might be a few of the latter which deserved help. The amounts at present expended upon the agricultural societies of the Province were accomplishing very much good in the way of improving stock and grains, &c., and they might very advantageously be increased. The agricultural interests of the country should be the first consideration. With regard to the long-voiced boundary question, those who had read the books placed before them last session would see that there was a good deal of dispute about the western boundary. He hoped that this Legislature would exact its rights on that question. If Canadian rights had been observed in the past, that ugly angle of the State of Maine

which projected into Canada would not have belonged to the United States. "To the Rocky Mountains or fight" should be the motto of our Government with regard to the western boundary of Ontario. (Cheers and laughter.) "The Province of Manitoba had by the supineness of the Provincial Government of that time taken away part of our territory; Keewatin was likely to do the same, and he hoped that the Governor would see that this Province secured a portion of the fertile valleys of the Saskatchewan, or receive some compensation for their loss.

Mr. DAWSON said the hon. member for Muskoka and the hon. member for South Wellington had spoken so well and so fully that he need say but little. Before referring to the matter of which the hon. member for North Norfolk had just spoken, he must express his approbation of the course proposed by the Government in providing a building in which the public documents would be secure from fire. He believed that every necessary precaution should be taken, and that a fire-proof building for the records of the Crown Lands Department was a necessity. He, however, agreed with hon. members on the opposite side of the House that, in the present state of the country, it would be injudicious to undertake the new Parliament buildings. Much as he should like to see in Toronto buildings which would do credit to this great Province and its finest city, he did not think that, with half of Ontario undeveloped, and an immense area of country without any means of access, by roads or otherwise, the country would approve of any great expenditure in this direction. With regard to railways, the policy of the Government had so far been productive of a great deal of good. Large sums had been given in the way of bonuses to companies, which had been largely supplemented by grants from the municipalities. But they must have a care not to encourage parallel lines of railway in the same district; the one destroyed the traffic of the other, and together they led to the absorption of the capital and resources of the country without giving any adequate return. Besides this, such ill-considered schemes destroyed the credit of the country in other lands. The House was well aware of what had been said in England in regard to our parallel lines, and he would suggest extreme caution in deciding on such lines as should be aided. In regard to the North-western boundary, his hon. friend the member for North Norfolk had said that the boundaries of Ontario should extend to the Rocky Mountains, and that the Province of Manitoba had been formed of the territory of Ontario. But this was a very wide and difficult question. All the reports before the House on the subject were *ex parte*, all on one side, and they must not arrive at too hasty conclusions on this important subject. Diplomats had differed about it; the ablest lawyers had differed; and, until the subject was more generally understood, it would be unfair to seek to produce an impression in the country which might prove to be delusive—it would be unfair to lead the people to suppose that Ontario had a clear and undisturbed title, when she had but a disputed claim. He would not at this stage enter very largely into the subject. The hon. member for South Simcoe had written a very interesting and able report, in which he claimed that the boundaries of Ontario should extend to the Lake of the Woods, but he (Mr. Dawson) believed that if the hon. gentleman had studied the subject in the light of the reports now before the House, he would not have been content to extend the western boundary only to the Lake of the Woods. The due west line from that Lake should extend to the Mississippi, and the Mississippi of the present day was not the Mississippi of the treaties of the last century. The old maps all agreed in representing the eastern boundary of Louisiana, which at the date of the Treaty of 1783 was in the possession of France, as being far to the west of the present Mississippi, and the boundary of Louisiana was the real point to be reached with a due west line from the Lake of the Woods. There were other boundaries which had been strongly advocated; for example, the due north line, which, ignore it as they might, had a great deal to recommend it. But the subject was too vast to enter into at present. Supposing, however, that Ontario had all that the strongest advocates for western extension could desire, would it be to her advantage? The policy which was the best for the Dominion at large would be the best also for Ontario as a Province. Would it be to the advantage of the Domin.