

the Bill for the encouragement of agriculture, arts, &c." Carried.

REFERENCES TO THE SUPREME COURT.

Mr. MOWAT moved the third reading of the Bill respecting references to the Supreme Court of Canada, and the Exchequer Court of Canada in certain cases. Carried.

SECOND READINGS.

The following Bills were read the second time:—

Respecting the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Hamilton.

To amend the Act respecting Dentistry.

ESCHEATS AND FORFEITURES.

Mr. MOWAT moved the concurrence of the House in the amendments made, in Committee on the Bill respecting escheats and forfeitures. Carried.

PAYMENTS TO UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIPS UNDER MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND SCHEME.

Mr. CROOKS moved the second reading of the Bill respecting payments to unorganized townships or parts of districts under the Municipal Loan Fund scheme. He explained that several of these districts were entitled to payments under the scheme, but as they had no municipal organization they were unable to apply the money. This Bill provided that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council should be authorized to apply the amounts to similar purposes as municipalities could apply them under their by laws.

The Bill was read a second time.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee of Supply.

On the item of \$87,048 for the Toronto Asylum,

Mr. MERRICK contended that the groceries for the public institutions should be bought by tender.

Mr. FRASER pointed out that it was impossible to obtain provisions satisfactorily by tender. The former Government had tried the system, and had been compelled to abandon it as a failure. The Government bought in the cheapest market, but, when the public interests were not sacrificed, where they could buy as cheaply from their political friends as from their political opponents, they gave the preference to their friends, and intended to do so to the end of the chapter. (Applause.) Everything that could properly be obtained by tender was obtained by tenders advertised for in the newspapers, but such things as tea and sugar could not be got by tender.

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

After recess,

The House again went into Committee of Supply.

Mr. CAMERON said that he understood the practice was with regard to supplies to send out circulars to friends of the Government asking them to send in these supplies.

Mr. WOOD said that no such circulars had been sent out with his consent or to his knowledge.

Mr. LONG contended that supplies even of groceries could be tendered for by samples and quotations. By the present system he could not see how the Government could tell whether their friends were supplying the goods at the lowest rate or not. He suggested that a man thoroughly conversant with teas, sugars, etc., should examine supplies for the Government.

Mr. MASSIE said the hon. gentleman was entirely astray in supposing that sugars, for instance, could be bought safely by colour and sample. Large dealers knew this very well by experience. The competition in the trade was so heavy that there was little possibility of the Government being imposed upon any more than private individuals.

Mr. SINCLAIR said that it would be almost impossible to contract for supplies at a fixed price for a year or other long periods. The prices current of the grocery trade were regularly published in the leading newspapers, and it would be a very easy matter to detect any extortion in the prices charged the Government. If respectable wholesale firms were dealt with, the Government would be as honourably dealt with as private individuals were.

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex) said that he was a little surprised, considering the tendency

of the times in favour of prohibition, that so large an amount should be spent by the Government for wines, beer, and spirituous liquors for the asylums. He should like to hear from the hon. member for Norfolk on this question. (Laughter.)

Mr. CLARKE (Norfolk) quoted statistics showing that a much larger amount proportionately to the number of patients was spent under this head by the late Government than by the present Administration. He contended that the death rate in such institutions was found to be lower where small quantities of spirits were used than in those where the quantity was large, though he admitted that stimulants were occasionally necessary. It was too often the case that the wine, beer, and so on, supplied for those institutions was consumed by attendants instead of the inmates. Hon. gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House, who pretended such horror at the doctrine of "support and supporters," should remember that that was the invariable principle when the Conservative party was in power, and that if that party came into power in this House to-morrow, seven-tenths of the officials of the Government would congratulate hon. gentlemen on the change, as that was about the proportion of Conservative officials in the service of the Government. He intended, on concurrence, moving for a reduction in the amount expended for spirits for the various institutions.

Mr. BARR said that the superintendents of the various institutions were the best judges of the amount of spirits required for patients. He thought the Government ought not to follow the example of their predecessors in reference to tenders.

Mr. FRASER pointed out that the expenditure for beer, wine, and spirits under the Sandfield Macdonald Administration had been much greater than under the present Government. In the nine months ending September, 1868, this item in the Toronto Asylum had been \$1,901; in 1869, \$2,321; and in 1870, \$2,776. In 1871 between \$1,800 and \$1,900 were spent, and in 1872 between \$1,900 and \$2,000. No Government could take the medical management of an institution out of the hands of the medical superintendent.

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex) suggested that the member for North Norfolk should move for a Committee to enquire whether beer, wine, and spirits should be supplied to the asylums at all. (Laughter.)

Mr. MEREDITH said the expenditure in the London Asylum had largely increased under this head.

Mr. BAXTER pointed out that the late Dr. Landon had found the mortality in the London Asylum increase when he reduced the amount of stimulants. Medical men differed very much on this point, but the balance of opinion was in favour of the use of stimulants. That being the case the matter should be left with the superintendents of the asylums.

Mr. BOULTER said he favoured giving the least possible amount of stimulants to a patient. He saw no benefit to be gained in the discussion of this matter, but believed the superintendents ought to have discretion allowed them.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said every medical man in the House seemed to be willing to give his opinion for nothing. He was willing to give his if he received his fee. (Loud laughter.)

The item passed, as did the following:—

Asylum for the Insane, London, \$86,800.

Do. do., Kingston, \$52,195.

On the item Asylum for the Insane, Hamilton, \$33,474.

Mr. CAMERON said that he thought the salary given the Assistant Superintendent, viz. \$700, was altogether too small for a professional man of high standing. The salary should be high enough to make it an inducement for members of the medical profession to train themselves specially for the treatment of the insane.

The item passed.

On the item, Asylum for Insane, Orillia, \$22,518,

Mr. CAMERON asked if there was any truth in the report in the newspapers of Orillia, that the service of the fire engine and hose of this institution had been refused in the case of a large fire in its vicinity, until part of the surrounding fence had been destroyed.

Mr. WOOD replied that he had made inquiry into the subject, and found that the