

sum of \$10,000.

Mr. LAUDER thought the Government's reason should be given.

Mr. FOSS said it was evident that the hon. member was disappointed in the ruling not being proceeded with.

Mr. CAMERON said that they should have more information after the House had been asked for \$20,000.

Mr. WOOD said it was simply because they did not intend this year to proceed with the fence.

Mr. MEREDITH quoted from the report of the Inspector saying that a new fence was urgently required.

Mr. CAMERON quoted from the file of THE GLOBE of 9th January, 1869, and said that he feared that the Government had been talked to about the proposed expenditure by their subordinates. He thought it strange that they refused to make the home of the Lieutenant-Governor what it should be.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simons) resented the manner in which the honourable the Commissioner of Public Works treated the House, which amounted to parliamentary contempt. He thought if the report upon the condition of the fence were correct the renewal should take place.

After a few remarks by Mr. Sexton the estimate, as amended, was concurred in.

In the discussion upon the proposed vote of \$77,300 for Colonization Roads,

Mr. LAUDER said that he hoped the hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands would revert to the old system of buying from local merchants, as the present system, judging from the evidence placed before the Committee upon Public Accounts, was shown to be the least profitable.

Mr. ROSS contended that the evidence was conclusive for the opposite opinion, and he thought that the present system was the best.

Mr. MILLER thought that as the Crown Lands Department was at present conducted, they could buy fully as cheap as a country merchant, and defended the conduct of buying the goods and forwarding them. He asked if they thought it probable that any merchant would sell or buy a year's supply of any commodity at one time. He compared the supplying of the colonization roads to the supplying of lumber shanty men, and said that the plan pursued in the latter case was the same as that pursued by the Government.

Mr. HAY knew from personal knowledge that the Government had not got the best value in supplies for these roads. He said that the Government had been solicited by importers and manufacturers for orders, but had not given them. He could come to no other conclusion than that the orders had been given to those in political sympathy with the Government.

Mr. GIBSON said that pork and flour were tendered for, and thought that the whole trouble of the matter was that the Opposition thought that they had got a good thing, but now found that, as they had been told to-day, "the mountains had laboured and brought forth a mouse"—and a small one at that. They could not let this pass, as it was too good a chance of backing out. He said that a large proportion of the goods had been supplied by a gentleman in political sympathy with the Opposition, which was annoyed now at its friends being no longer allowed to fatten at the public crib.

Mr. MERRICK took exception to the last remark of the hon. gentleman, and could not agree with those speakers who considered that the best plan was now being pursued. He advocated the policy of tendering for supplies as necessary to all public institutions, and could see no difficulty in its adoption. He said he had noticed that the lists of prices furnished to the Government had been of no practical value to them, as the prices were not decided and no samples furnished. He said that in cases where the tender system had been adopted the order had not been invariably given to the lowest offerer. He asserted that the principles the Government have pursued since they have come into power had been quite opposite from what they enunciated when in Opposition.

It being 6 o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

Mr. ROSS said he wished to correct the statement made by the member for East Grey with regard to supplies for colonization

roads, to the effect that the witnesses before the Public Accounts Committee had stated that the system pursued by the Government was not a correct or proper one. He read from the reports of the Committee as published in the newspapers the evidence of witnesses to the effect, that with regard to supplies of groceries the system pursued by the Government was the proper one, and that the tender system could not be pursued with regard to these articles. In 1874 the present Government tried the system of tender, but found it ineffective, and they have had to adopt the system of buying from first-class houses, just as a merchant does. A merchant would not ask for a tender.

Mr. MERRICK—He would see samples, and would not buy as the Government had done.

Mr. ROSS—The Government did see samples when buying. He could not see how the receiver could tell in the event of the goods being supplied by tender, that the supply was equal to the sample submitted with the tender. He could see no better plan for the Government to pursue than to buy at the lowest market rates. He thought, however, that in the supply of flour and pork the system of tender might be advantageously adopted.

Mr. MEREDITH—How do the counties supply their institutions?

Mr. ROSS—The county of Huron, which compared favourably with other counties in point of intelligence, endorsed the course pursued by the Government. He said that the lowest tender for pork had been in such instance accepted, the statement of the hon. member notwithstanding. He then detailed the circumstances under which Mr. Daves offered to supply at the low price—that the entire quantity was to be taken off his hands in one lot and at once. He would not do a peddling business (hear, hear) such as the Government wished him to do. He said that there was no other tender lower than Mr. Griffith's. He did not wish to discuss this matter further until the House was in possession of the facts.

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex) moved in amendment, "That the appropriation for Colonization Roads be reduced from \$77,300 to \$50,000." He thought that these yearly grants for the purpose of colonization roads were far in excess of the benefits accruing to the Province at large, and were unjust to the other counties. Political favouritism characterized all the expenditure under this head of service. The superintendents of the roads were appointed as a reward for political services, and the same rule obtained down even to the storekeeper from whom the supplies for the workmen were purchased. He thought that now that the Government proposed to make large grants in aid of railroads running out into the same section of the country, it was only right that the amount for ordinary roads should be reduced.

Mr. PARDEE opposed the views of those who said that the country being opened up was unfit for settlers, and was surprised at such an amendment. He thought that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Patterson) wanted to make political capital out of his motion. He thought that the object of the Opposition in raising discussion upon the buying of tea and sugar was to waste time. He would inform them how he found matters at the Crown Lands Office when he took his portfolio. The plan pursued in 1874 was the same as now, and had been the same in '72-'73. In these last two mentioned years they were buying from Mr. Griffith, who was a friend of the Opposition. From 1869 to 1874 they had bought \$15,303 worth of goods from Mr. Griffith. He said that on their colonization roads they had forty camps, and he asked what state matters would soon be in if each overseer could order when he liked. Besides, they could not do it. There was a question why did they not buy in Peterboro'. They had no colonization roads in that neighbourhood. Mr. Jaffray in three years had only supplied \$2,000 more than Mr. Griffith. He then defended the position of the Government in accepting the tenders they did for pork. The Opposition's own party man in the business had said that the person supplying was an eminently respectable man. He quoted the report of the Public Accounts Committee in exonerating of the charge of favouritism made against Mr. Cashman, and said that Tory grocers had stooped to ask the influence of Mr. Cashman to get them the contract. He thought that there were men on the Opposition benches who thought that the time of the Public Ac-