

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) regretted that his learned friend (Mr. Cameron) was not present, for no doubt he would have seconded the motion. He (Mr. Macdougall) had declined to second it, and he was glad that his name was not placed on the Committee, for he thought they had better go on as at present. He suggested that the House should meet fifteen minutes before the regular hour, and that the different clergymen of this city should be invited to attend and give the House the benefit of their presence, and their invocations on the Divine Being. If, however, the service was to be a mere form, he apprehended more evil than good from it. He had been in the House of Commons at Ottawa during prayers, and he thought the ceremony there was entered into with very little sincerity. If, however, the House desired to adopt a form of prayer, he would not stand in the way. He was brought up to believe that forms of prayer that did not spring from the heart were of little use. He therefore hoped that, if the House were to be opened with prayers, the ceremony would be conducted in the most solemn and sincere manner.

Mr. SINCLAIR very much agreed with the last speaker. It was a proper thing for members of this House to invoke the Divine blessing on their work in their own closets, and he was sure that some members did so. Whether it would be to the glory of God for them to adopt something which would be likely to degenerate into a mere form was another matter. If it was the Divine blessing they wanted, he had very little confidence in machine praying, whether it were done by a member of this House or by any one else. (Laughter.) To his mind, the most preferable system would be for the different members of the House to take part themselves. (Laughter.) They were all members of the Church. (Renewed laughter.) Why should not the Attorney-General or the leader of the Opposition offer prayer in the House? (Hear, hear, and laughter.) If they were really anxious to secure the Divine blessing hon. members could pray for themselves. If the members of this House offered prayer before they entered it, he felt sure they would refrain from making remarks such as had been made, imputing improper motives to the doings of others.

Mr. CAMERON (who had a few minutes before entered the House) said that he was by no means a religious man, so to speak, but he had that respect for everything pertaining to religion that he did not like to see it in any way endangered or used in a way that might be considered a mockery. The remarks of the hon. gentleman who had just preceded him led him to the conclusion that it might be so in this House if the motion of the Attorney-General were carried into effect. If hon. gentlemen were sent here to support the Government or the Opposition through thick and thin, opening prayers would be rather out of place. After the prayers were offered up there would be hon. gentlemen who would vote rather in the interests of the Government than according to their convictions. They knew that members had voted differently from the way they spoke in the lobbies, and contrary to the dictates of their private judgment. He did not think it would be in the interests of morality or religion that prayer should be offered for the Divine direction of their course in this House. Because he believed it would bring religion into discredit he opposed the proposition.

Mr. MOWAT said he was both surprised and pained at the observations of his hon. friend, on whose support of the motion he had confidently relied. He should not follow the hon. member in regard to the political portion of his speech. He should not follow him by attacking the Opposition as he (Mr. Cameron) had attacked the Government. This was not the occasion for anything of the kind. He would only say that if there were gentlemen on either side of this House who were accustomed to vote against their conscience, it was only the more necessary that they should seek the Divine guidance to prevent them from acting in a manner so wicked. He could not think that his hon. friend had made the observations he did deliberately, but on the spur of the moment. He (Mr. Mowat) sympathized with what had been said as to the futility of mere forms of prayer. His own education had given him a preference for extemporaneous prayer, but all the Churches did not take that view. From his knowledge of the Church which used set forms of prayer, and of its ministers and laymen, he believed there was as much piety in that Church as in others. He was quite satisfied that it would be quite impracticable to open the House with prayer unless they adopted some form. He should be glad if it were found practicable to have a minister of religion to perform the service, but if not, it would be better to have prayer offered at the opening of their sessions by a layman rather than not at all. (Cheers.)

Mr. CAMERON asked if it were intended that the Committee should be named now.

Mr. MOWAT said the motion contained the names of the Committee.

Mr. CAMERON—Then I decline to act. I cannot perform the duties required by a member of that Committee.

The name of Mr. Clarke (Norfolk) was substituted for that of Mr. Cameron, and the motion was carried.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) resumed the debate on the Address. In connection with his remarks on the impropriety of a Minister calling in a judge to assist him in performing his duties, he read an extract from a western paper in support of what he had said.

Mr. CROOKS (who evidently suffered from severe indisposition) wished to state what had been the course of the Department of Education with respect to the two Commissions which had been referred to in the course of the debate. There had been some misapprehension in the minds of the clerical public as to the respective functions of these two Commissions. So far as the two inquiries were concerned, they were entirely distinct, they involved distinct considerations, and would require to be considered independently by the House. The authority for the issue of the Commission in the inquiry conducted by Justice Patterson did not reside in the Minister of Education, but in the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and the subject of the inquiry was whether public

officials had been guilty of such malversations in respect of their duty or that want of integrity which would have rendered them unfit to hold their positions in the future. It had nothing to do with the internal management of the affairs of the Department, but with the conduct of public officials. These officials had the right to have the charges against them investigated by any tribunal which was accessible to them; and if the hon. member for South Simcoe had referred to writers on the subject he would have found that they regarded a Commission as the proper mode of inquiry in such cases. It was impossible for the Minister of Education or the Department to have taken charge of the inquiry in any such a way as to give it the authority of a judicial inquiry. The other investigation had reference to matters purely departmental. The law regulating the conduct of the Department provided the machinery by which matters relating to school organization or the internal management of the Department could be referred to a Commission by the Chief Superintendent of Education, or, under the present system, by the Minister. The enquiry simply affected the position of candidates endeavouring to obtain certificates of qualification to teach; and it became necessary to conduct it in such a way that all the candidates affected by the enquiry should have an opportunity of a full and complete hearing. The inquiry conducted by Mr. Justice Patterson was one in which the public generally acquiesced, and he thought all who had watched the proceedings before the Commissioner would cordially acquiesce in his report. (Hear, hear.) The circumstances in which the inquiry had originated could not be charged to any period since he (Mr. Crooks) had been the head of the Department, as they dated as far back as 1874. It appeared also, with regard to the inquiry conducted by Mr. Hughes, that the obtaining by candidates of the examination papers from certain printers in Toronto had commenced some time before the examination which took place last year. At this stage of his speech Mr. Crooks said that he had been ill for some days back, and found himself unable to continue his remarks at present. He hoped the House would indulge him so far as to allow him to resume his remarks on the subject on another occasion. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) said it was very evident to every member of the House that the hon. gentleman was so indisposed as to be physically incapable of doing justice to his view of the case today. For his part he was perfectly willing to accord the hon. gentleman every consideration under the circumstances; but he trusted that it would not be long before they would have an explanation from the Government.

Mr. DEACON wished to know from the Commissioner of Crown Lands how much had been received from the sale of lands last year?

Mr. PARDEE said the amount, as well as he could remember, was \$228,000.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe)—What was the estimate?

Mr. PARDEE said he did not remember exactly, but it was a little under that sum.

Mr. DEACON—Does that include the sale of licenses?

Mr. PARDEE—No. The amount received from timber dues was, in round numbers, \$400,000; the amount received from the sale of lands, about \$228,000.

Mr. MEREDITH—I think you estimated \$600,000?

Mr. PARDEE—No, about \$400,000, I believe.

Mr. MEREDITH, referring to the paragraph relating to increased accommodation for the insane, deaf and dumb, &c., said that he was sorry that larger sums were not granted to these charitable institutions, which had charge of the aged and the unfortunate. The amounts now given were a mere bagatelle. Two of these institutions in the city of London, which had been erected at probably a cost of \$60,000 or \$70,000, only received two cents per head—or \$1,000 for the two—while 20 cents per head was given to the hospitals. The Government should not lose sight of the fact that by taking proper care of these unfortunate people they very often succeeded in making them useful members of the community, when otherwise they were liable to become not only burdensome but vicious. He thought the Province could afford to make these institutions a larger grant.

Mr. MOWAT said that, of course, the observation made by the hon. gentleman appealed to the humanity of every member of the House; but they must consider the limited sources of their revenue, and that the line must be drawn somewhere in giving further support to these institutions. They had many pressing needs of this character, and if additional aid were given to this class of charities many other useful objects would suffer in consequence. In proportion to the revenue the grants to them were large. The institutions for the deaf and dumb and the blind were all charities; and the House should remember that the Province, in taking the exclusive support of these institutions into its own hands, was really doing more for charitable purposes than was usual in other countries. There were many important matters besides the general government and legislation, which consumed a large portion of the revenue. Public works were going on almost everywhere, and in the past large amounts had been devoted to railway aid and various other objects.

Mr. SCOTT said he thought that the time would soon come when a different and larger scheme than the present would have to be initiated in respect to these charities. The Act passed some time ago by which provision was made that the municipalities should take charge of their own poor was now taken advantage of to a very limited extent. He thought that it was worthy of consideration whether the Government should not compel the municipalities to support their own paupers, instead of sending them beyond their bounds to burden other corporations, as was now done. Referring to the timber trade, he said that there was no information to show that the revival upon which the Government congratulated the House had really taken place. The amount received from timber dues