

Referring to the lumber trade, he said he understood that the reference made in the Speech to that trade was a very general reference. Instead of being flourishing, that trade was in a very depressed condition. Persons dealing in lumber had drawn largely on the banks for capital, and they were carrying it during the whole year waiting in vain for a market.

Mr. LANE desired to be understood that he was not in the confidence of the Ministry in the matter of the measure relating to landlords and tenants, and whatever he had said he himself only was responsible for.

The sixth paragraph was then carried.

On paragraph seven

Mr. CAMERON remarked that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lane) ought to have obtained some information from the Government with regard to the measure on which he spoke before undertaking to address the House upon it. He did not believe that public opinion had been expressed against the Toronto and Ottawa Railway, but, on the contrary, that it was a road which should receive Government aid.

The seventh paragraph was carried.

On paragraph eight,

Mr. CLARKE (Norfolk) pointed to the necessity of the Government watching over the interests of roads that had been assisted, in order that their usefulness might not be impaired. He referred to a railway which had been built to Prince Arthur's Landing with a view to connecting it with the Pacific Railway. This had been prevented, however, by the action of the Dominion Government. He thought the time had come when the Ontario Government should cease giving aid to lines which were not absolutely necessary, but he had no objection to aid being granted to the Toronto and Ottawa Railway. He proceeded to refer to the crowded state of the lunatic asylums, and to the difficulty under such cases of curing incipient cases of insanity. Persons of whose cure there was hope might be kept in buildings separate from incurable lunatics. There was no doubt that in our increasing population insanity was also increasing, and he was glad His Honour had referred to the subject. He suggested the appointment of a Committee to consider the condition of our insane asylums.

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

After recess,

Mr. CLARKE (Norfolk) resumed the debate. He strongly approved of some better provision being made for the protection of the pauper classes. At present it was quite common for one municipality to relieve itself of its own burdens by laying them on the shoulders of its neighbours, though his county had done its duty in providing for its pauper population, but it was frequently called upon to support those who properly belonged to other counties. He thought every municipality should be compelled to provide for its own poor. He approved of much larger grants being given to agricultural societies than were given at present. He was pleased to notice that it was the intention of the Government to return to the system of employing prisoners at certain kinds of labour which had prevailed some years ago. He would suggest an amendment of that provision of the criminal law which required stipendiary magistrates in the outlying districts of Muskoka and Algoma to send prisoners committed for more than thirty days to certain gaols in the Province. The result was that the magistrates frequently inflicted comparatively light sentences for grave crimes, owing to the impossibility of sending prisoners to these gaols at certain seasons of the year. He regretted that the leader of the Opposition had repeated his attack on the magistracy of the country, and the repeated iteration of this attack would seem to show a disposition on the part of the legal members of the House to destroy the magistracy and to substitute stipendiary magistrates for those officers. The legal fraternity seemed desirous to monopolise all the official positions in the country, and he hoped that this tendency would be checked. He insisted on the right of every member of the House being at full liberty to express his opinions on the Speech, instead of the discussion being limited to a few members on each side. He concluded by congratulating the Government on the Speech they had been enabled to bring down, and on the hearty reception which the Reform leaders had met with at the picnics last summer.

Mr. CAMERON remarked that the original intention in establishing the free grant system was to attract immigrants from abroad rather than the sons of Canadian farmers, however desirable a class they might be. The object sought was to increase the consuming power of the country, and this, of course, was not accomplished if they were settled by Canadians. In reply to a remark of the member for North Norfolk, he said that though he (Mr. Cameron) advocated the appointment of stipendiary magistrates, it did not by any means follow that they should all be lawyers. But, even if he did imply that, it could not be denied that professional men would be the best fitted to administer the law. He had not attacked the magistrates of the country, but he simply said, speaking from his own professional experience, that the majority of them were unqualified for the discharge of their duties.

Mr. SINCLAIR said he believed it would be a great advantage to the country to have our free grant lands to some extent settled by sons of the soil, as otherwise we would find our young men leave the country. There should be at least a sprinkling of Canadian settlers among those who immigrated from abroad, as they would prove of great assistance to those who were new to the country. He believed the magistracy of the Province were a respectable body of men, and by no means so illiterate as the leader of the Opposition would have the House to believe. The Government had been very careful to appoint the best men; and if the magistrates had occasionally made mistakes, they made no more than the legal gentlemen of the country. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HAY said that though there were some magistrates throughout the country who were unfit for their duties, they had all been appointed before the present Government came to power (hear, hear, and laughter), and got very little work to do. He believed, however, that there would soon have to be a change to some extent in the direction suggested by the member for East Toronto (Mr. Cameron). At

present the rule was that in the neighbourhood of towns the great bulk of magisterial work was performed by the mayors of these towns, and the rural magistrates had little or nothing to do. With regard to grants to agricultural societies, he thought that perhaps the less the farmers had to depend on Government aid the better. The feeling in the country was that there were too many of these societies, and that, with our increased facilities for inter-communication, a little more centralization would be an improvement. He urged, as a better mode of helping the agricultural interest, the creation of an inter-drainage fund for the Province, as the question of drainage had perhaps more to do with the present moment with the prosperity of the farmer than anything else. It might be said that such a scheme would degenerate into something like a municipal loan fund indebtedness, but he did not think that would be the case. It might also be said that farmers could now borrow money to drain their lands at eight per cent., but even that figure was too high. He suggested that it should be made a Government matter, and that the loan should be made the first lien on the land, the same as a tax. He hoped that the Government would see their way to the adoption of some such scheme as he had suggested. With regard to the question of immigration, he thought it would be a great mistake to send into our new territories exclusively those who have just arrived in this country. There should be at least a fair sprinkling of Canadian farmers. He believed that few people had any idea of the extent to which the northern parts of the Province had been settled within the last few years. In the Parry Sound and Muskoka districts there was at least a population of twenty-five thousand, while including the township of Haliburton the number of settlers in that county, which a few years ago was almost a wilderness, would number between 30,000 and 40,000 people. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) The Government had largely aided in securing that very desirable result by their liberal colonization road policy; but there was another question perhaps more important than that of colonization roads and that was the one of colonization railways. He trusted that the Victoria Railway would be pushed as rapidly as possible in the direction of Lake Opeongo, and thence onward to the Mattewan. There were millions of acres of land in that country which was not only available for cultivation, but the wood it bore would prove of the greatest value if means of export were provided. Its forests of black birch and bird's-eye maple would yet prove of great value to the Province; but these heavy woods could only be transported by rail, as their specific gravity was too great to float them down by water. If railways were built through that country they would find steam mills starting up on every hand to manufacture this lumber and supply it for the foreign and the home market. There was a prevailing impression that all the arable lands of Ontario were embraced in a strip of territory forty or fifty miles wide along the great lakes, but this he knew by his own observation to be a mistake. Between the Laurentian formation and the head waters of the Ottawa there were large areas of fertile land covered with valuable timber, and he believed that before fifty years they would find that this section of the country had developed into one of the finest grazing districts in the Province. As his friend from South Perth would tell them, those parts of the country in which there was abundance of pure water were always the best for the production of cheese, and he (Mr. Hay) had never seen anywhere that could equal the districts to which he referred in the extent and beauty of its water supply. He then referred to the question of education, and expressed the opinion that there was little or no danger of the recent change in the head of the Department resulting in the prostitution of our school system for political purposes. (Hear, hear.) He strongly approved of that change; and if such a tendency did develop itself it could soon be checked. He thought, however, that there were some of the Departmental regulations which, if too vigorously enforced, would prove a hardship in many sections. He referred particularly to the one which required the engagement of an additional qualified teacher if there was an excess in the school attendance of 50 pupils. Inspectors sometimes acted altogether too arbitrarily in requiring the enforcement of this regulation, when perhaps the excessive attendance was only for two or three months in the year. (Hear, hear.) With regard to inspection, he might remark that the professional life of every teacher in the riding and county depended upon the Inspector, and unless that official used his powers faithfully, without partisanship and political bias, he could do infinite mischief. Politics should not be allowed to interfere with this duty, and he suggested the passage of a small Act to the effect that any Inspector meddling in politics should lose his position. Very few men could be trusted in such a position. Unless an Inspector was a strong, square, honourable man, if he took an interest in municipal politics he would be sure to use his influence to promote his own ends or those of his friends. Referring to the question of immigration, he said no Government which had endeavoured to promote immigration could be held responsible for the large class of worthless persons who came to the country. The steamship agents in Europe were very active, and had no scruples as to who emigrated so long as the passage money was paid, and the result was that men came from the towns who were good for nothing in the Old Country, and became a nuisance in the Dominion. He was glad to hear that the immigration this year was of the right kind, but he regretted that this question should be made one of party politics, and that a portion of the press should decry desirable immigration. The other day he saw a letter in one of the newspapers of the city stating that no class of immigrants was wanted in