

had a longing desire to enter a Government, and if he was only patient his wish might yet be gratified. (Laughter.) The same hon. gentleman had made an unwarranted attack on the judiciary. He (Mr. Hunter) well remembered that on one occasion, when he had complained of the interference of a county judge in political matters, the hon. member for Peterborough most heartily took him to task. Now, however, the judgment of one who was not a county judge was characterized as the statement of an advocate.

Mr. SCOTT said he had never referred to the matter even most remotely.

Mr. HUNTER stated that the attack upon himself had been made by the hon. member for Peterborough, but the attack on the Superior Court Judge was made by the hon. member for South Simcoe, from whom it came with a very bad grace. (Hear, hear.)

It being now six o'clock,

Mr. MOWAT said that as probably all hon. gentlemen who intended to speak on the Address had done so, it might be unnecessary to postpone the debate. He proposed that the vote should now be taken.

Several hon. members expressing their desire to speak, it was agreed that the debate should go on, and the House rose for recess.

After recess,

Mr. HUNTER continued his speech. He said the country would regard with satisfaction the distribution of the statutes among the magistrates. The fees this class received were very small, and it was not to be expected that they should be compelled to purchase the statutes. He congratulated the Government in having provided such a liberal bill of fare for the deliberation of the House, and one in which the Opposition, with all their known ability and parliamentary experience, had not succeeded in finding a single clause upon which to base an amendment. (Cheers.)

Mr. RICHARDSON criticised our educational system at some length. While not admiring many of the regulations of our schools, he thought it was the duty of every one to endeavour to strengthen the hands of the gentlemen at the head of the Department. The winding up of joint stock companies mentioned in the Address was a step in the right direction, and he trusted the Government would go a little further and give the House some information about the winding up of insurance companies. With regard to the paragraph relating to railways, his opinion was that Government had gone as far as is right in spending money for the construction of railroads. If, however, the country were to be developed, the Ministry would be doing no more than their duty if they pushed forward colonization roads. Referring to the agricultural question, he urged that an increased grant in favour of the societies would prove a great benefit to the whole community. Instead of centralising the agricultural societies, as it was feared might be the effect of such action, the tendency would be to diffuse more help and ability into township organizations. He was sorry to notice the absence of a clause in the Address treating on the exemption of Church property. This question of exemption was an important one, and it behooved the Chamber to take it up and free themselves on it from the reproach of being class legislators. If the Government wanted to leave their names on the records of the country, they could not effect their object in a surer way than by dealing with this subject. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. GREIGHTON urged the wider circulation of the revised statutes. Passing on to the constitution of the Cabinet, he said it was a matter for regret that the Government, in making the recent addition, did not seize the opportunity of strengthening the lay element. But he did not see the necessity for enlarging the Cabinet. Two members of the Government last summer did the whole business of the country, and he could not understand why the five gentlemen who managed the affairs of the country last year could not do the same this year. The system of governing by commis-

sion—of abrogating the proper functions of Ministers—had lately been introduced by the Government, and he would suggest that the hon. Attorney-General should dismiss all his colleagues and appoint commissioners to run the affairs of the country. Such a step would give as much satisfaction as the manner in which public business is now attended to. (Opposition cheers.)

Mr. MONK criticised several paragraphs of the Speech. With regard to that relating to railways, he thought it was inspired by a spirit of selfishness. The desire seemed to be to get as much as possible for the west, but to oppose every scheme which was calculated to benefit the eastern section of the Province.

Mr. ROSEVEAR said out of nothing the world was made, and he did not know but that great things might yet come out of this little piece of paper. (Laughter.) There was not much good nor yet much harm in the Address, and if nothing could be found to add or take from it, the Government, he must confess, had done well. He thought when the Address was introduced that an hour would suffice to dispose of it; but there were prospects now that the debate would last a week, and as there was nothing more for the House to do when the Address was passed, he sincerely hoped the discussion would continue for thirty days longer. (Laughter.)

Mr. SEXTON said that with regard to the License Act it might not have worked as well in some localities as in others, but he would mention that in his constituency the number of licenses in 1873 was 52, while in 1876 they had been reduced to 24. (Hear, hear.) The number of shop and tavern licenses throughout the Province in 1873 was 6,048; in 1875, 5,716; while in 1876 they had been reduced to 3,771; in other words, there had been a reduction of about one-third. He believed the Act had worked well as a general rule, though there might be exceptional cases. The cry had been raised that Reformers had received more consideration than Conservatives in the matter of receiving licenses. The incorrectness of this statement was shown by the fact that while the Reformers were in a majority in the Province, there had been granted in 1876 2,618 licenses to Conservatives as against 1,146 to Reformers.

Mr. HARKIN approved of the establishment of County Model Schools, though there might be some improvement in the details of their maintenance. One great advantage to be derived from such institutions was that there would be uniformity in the mode of teaching. Referring to the recent sale of timber lands, he said that dealers would scarcely be able to repay what they now owed the banks, much less to carry on further operations. He thought that a new fence should be built around the grounds of Government House, and he was also of opinion that steps should be taken for the erection of new Parliament Buildings. The present building was unsafe, it was poorly lighted, its sanitary condition was very bad, and it was a disgrace to the rich Province of Ontario that its Legislature should be obliged to meet in such a structure. Referring to the question of railway aid, he said that it was rather unfair that western members, after getting all the railway facilities they required, should now refuse to extend the same advantage to the eastern part of the Province.

Mr. FLESHER disputed the statement that the trade of the country was in a flourishing condition, and attributed the depression to the fiscal policy of the Dominion Government. He agreed that there was a necessity for greater accommodation for the insane, as many of these unfortunates were now sent to the common gaols. The fact that the Government now considered it necessary to exercise special caution in granting aid to railways implied that such caution had not been exercised in the past. He contended that the Toronto, Grey, and Bruce had not had proper consideration at the hands of the Government, for it was not a competing line, as many of the roads were which had received aid, and it ran through a section of the coun-