

changed by the arguments of the hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands. He disapproved of the Government acting as traders, and thought that supplies should be purchased when wanted and as cheaply as possible. He was glad to hear hon. gentlemen opposite admit that the construction of colonization roads under his hon. friend the Commissioner of Crown Lands had been of more benefit to the country than under previous Governments. It was not a fact that the Government used the patronage in connection with the building of the colonization roads for political purposes, as in his own district some of the bitterest political enemies he had were Tory overseers sent in there by the Government to superintend the building of colonization roads. He also held that such roads should be built according to the influx of settlement. He adduced statistics to show that the district of Muskoka had not been so well treated as some of the new districts in the way of colonization road expenditure, as in 1878 the sum of \$24 94 per location only was spent, while in Algoma the expenditure was \$52 60, in Addington \$192 30, and in Renfrew \$56 50 per location. There was a fine section of country from the terminus of the Rousseau and Nipissing road to Mattawa, a road built through which would complete the circle from Toronto to Ottawa, and which was entirely closed to settlers as far as roads were concerned. He thought the Government should set apart \$25,000 for the purpose of building a road there, as it would be of immense benefit to that section of the country.

Mr. BELL was strongly opposed to the letting of contracts for bridges otherwise than by tenders. The system of sending circulars to certain contractors was an objectionable one, and laid the Government open to the charge of favouritism.

Mr. PARKHILL concurred in the colonization road policy of the Government, and thought that instead of \$4,000 being set apart for Manitoulin Island roads the sum should be \$10,000. The country benefited by the roads was one of much promise, and would repay the increased expenditure.

Mr. LYON (Algoma) said that three hundred and seventy-four miles of colonization roads had been constructed in Algoma, and twenty-four miles repaired, at an outlay of \$15,413. He had travelled over those roads himself, and was in a position to state that for every dollar that had been expended a dollar's worth of road had been built. (Hear, hear.) He hoped to see the policy of the Government in this respect concurred in, as it tended greatly to promote the settlement of the wild lands of the Province. There were millions of acres of arable land in Algoma lying unoccupied, and if colonization roads were constructed immigration would be greatly increased, and these lands settled upon with rapidity. It would be much in the interests of the country if young men instead of remaining in the cities of the older parts of the Province, would enter upon those districts, and become independent and better members of society by making themselves homes there. With regard to the purchasing of supplies, everything but pork and flour could be purchased 25 or 30 per cent. cheaper in Toronto than in Algoma. He believed that the expenditure on colonization roads in Algoma had been such as to promote the very best interests of the settlers in that district. (Cheers.)

Mr. LAUDER asked whether tenders had been received for the contract of building the Combermere Bridge across the Madawaska.

Mr. PARDEE said that they had, and explained the manner in which contracts were let by the Department. A certain number of experienced and reliable men were known to the Government, and circulars asking for tenders were sent to them. By awarding the contract to one of these parties the Government procured the services of an experienced man, and one with whose record the Government were acquainted, and were thus spared the necessity of looking up the history of the lowest tenderer, which they would have to do if any other system were adopted. The following out of this course has resulted in the Department getting bridges built in a most satisfactory and sub-

stantial manner.

Mr. LAUDER thought the tenders for the building of the Combermere Bridge ought to be produced before the estimates were passed. He asked whether the tendering for supplies was conducted in the same manner as that for the bridges.

Mr. PARDEE said that advertisements were issued every spring for pork and flour in sufficient quantities to cover the whole season.

Mr. LAUDER said that a large portion of the expenditure had been laid out in the district which his hon. friend from Muskoka represented, and called upon him to say whether any of the contractors or overseers there were Conservatives.

Mr. MILLER named Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Keating as two Conservative contractors, the former of whom especially interested himself against his (Mr. Miller's) election, and against the Government generally.

Mr. LAUDER renewed his accusations that the Government exhibited favouritism to political supporters in granting contracts for colonization road supplies. It had been shown by an examination held before the Public Accounts Committee in 1877 that the Government awarded contracts for supplies to political supporters though they were not the lowest tenderers. He accused the hon. member for Muskoka of strengthening himself, politically, by inducing the Government to lay out the expenditure of colonization road moneys in districts where it would benefit the hon. gentleman. The hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands had gone back upon his record. When in Opposition, he had voted for the principle of setting apart particular sums to be spent upon specified works. If the expenditure for 1878, on any works, were contrasted with the estimates of that year it would be impossible to trace out any particular item. He had a letter in his desk from a discharged labourer at the Central Prison, who had threatened to divulge some things that would be unpleasant to the Government, and who had been sent up to Muskoka and spent money to aid colonization roads.

Mr. WOOD denied that any such man had made threats to him.

Mr. LAUDER said the man had threatened to bring an action against the Government if not supplied with work.

Mr. PARDEE did not object to the hon. member for East Grey criticising the expenditure on colonization roads, but he did object to his making such incorrect statements as the one he had made. The man referred to had been temporarily employed as a carpenter at the Central Prison, and his services were dispensed with because he was not needed any longer. It was represented to him (Mr. Pardee) that the man had been employed upon the Grand Trunk Railway, and had had considerable experience that would fit him to conduct the building of roads. He had applied for work, and had stated that his family were in want, and he had been given work on one of the Government roads in the eastern part of the country. No threat of embarrassing the Government had been made, and the action of the Government was not influenced by any such motive as a desire to conceal anything that the man might disclose. He denied that the Government had sent round asking for tenders for flour and pork from political supporters, and said that it was out of the question to ask tenders for the smaller articles, such as tea, sugar, &c., because only small quantities were required, and it was impossible to keep the goods on hand, besides which, the Government had no wish to take the position of store-keepers. He repelled the accusation of the hon. member for East Grey that the expenditure had not been in accord with the vote taken for particular works. If the hon. gentleman would examine his (Mr. Pardee's) report, he would find that in ninety cases out of a hundred the expenditure was made in accordance with the estimates. The expenditure upon colonization roads had been economical and to the interests of the country.

Mr. LAUDER contended that the hon. Commissioner for Crown Lands had misrepresented the manner in which the expenditure upon colonization roads had been made. No one unacquainted with the Public Accounts could follow out any expendi-