

ground in the town of Gruelph.

Mr. Bell—To amend an Act to authorize the churchwardens of St. James' Church, Toronto, to issue debentures.

INSPECTOR OF INSURANCE COMPANIES,

Mr. WOOD moved, "That this House should, at its second session to-day, go into Committee to consider the following resolution:—The salary of the Inspector of Insurance Companies shall not exceed two thousand dollars per annum, and it shall be lawful to provide from time to time such assistance as may be found necessary; and towards defraying the expense of the office of the Inspector, a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars shall be annually contributed by the insurance companies inspected by such Inspector, and consisting of all companies required to be licensed under the Ontario Insurance Act, and also of all mutual insurance companies required to make returns under the Act respecting mutual fire insurance companies; and this sum shall be assessed *pro rata* upon the gross amount insured by each company during the preceding year, such sum to be paid upon the issue of the annual license, or at such other time as the Treasurer may direct, and the Treasurer's certificate shall be conclusive as to the amount each or any company is to pay." Carried.

THE NEW TERRITORY.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill respecting the northerly and westerly parts of Ontario—Mr. Mowat.

Mr. MEREDITH said that he did not think there was any ground of suspicion that the Dominion Government would not be willing to ratify the award, but if anything should ensue that would injuriously affect the interests of Ontario, the hon. gentleman and his party at Ottawa would be responsible. The arbitration should not have been entered into without an Act being passed by the Dominion Parliament binding the Dominion to abide by the award.

Mr. MOWAT had no doubt that the Dominion Government would confirm the award. The reason they had not done so already was, doubtless, that they had not yet found time amid their other important legislation to attend to the matter. Others, however, entertained the opinion that there was a danger of the Dominion Parliament not confirming the decision of the arbitrators, and he believed it necessary that the present Bill should be passed. He did not think that there was any ground for the objection that the arbitration should not have taken place without previous legislation binding both parties to the award. The Government had taken the usual course in the matter.

Mr. MILLER said that the House need not delude itself with the idea that there was no objection in any quarters to carrying out the award. There was a feeling abroad that this Legislature was utterly incompetent to deal with the vast interests of Algoma and the new territory recently added to the Province. If any evidence of this were required it could be found in the fact that the resolution introduced by the hon. member for Algoma the other day for increasing the representation of his constituency had been rejected. That hon. member now represented an inhabited territory of seven hundred miles in length, and he (Mr. Miller) was advised that a polling-place would be opened up at the next election at St. Francis' Lock, some three hundred miles further to the westward. Under the Algoma franchise the settlers on the shore of James' Bay would also be entitled to representation, and a polling place would necessarily have to be opened up there, making the constituency of Algoma some fifteen hundred miles long. To this vast territory Ontario had not even constructed a waggon road, the only way there being the old canoe routes left by the Ojibway Indians when they were driven out by the white men. The Dominion Government in the meantime, under pressure from Quebec, were pushing the construction of the Georgian Bay Branch Railway, and he had been recently informed by one of the contractors that steam drills and all other appliances necessary for the early completion of the road were being obtained. It was already cut out one hundred and thirty feet wide for nearly the entire distance, and the contractors' houses, engineers' offices, &c., were erected. If Ontario dreamt that she could hold that vast country without having any other connection than at present she was quite mistaken. He thought it would be in the interests of the whole Dominion if a new Province were formed embracing Algoma and all the territory recently added. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MOWAT said that Ontario was just as competent to deal with this territory as the Dominion. (Cheers.) If there was more than one hon. member, there certainly were not more than two in favour of the idea mooted by his hon. friend from Muskoka. His hon. friend also seemed to be under the impression that the few thousand people in Algoma had a better right to that district than the two millions in Ontario. He did not think that the proposition to form a new Province was at all a popular one. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MORRIS said that the hon. member for Muskoka utterly lost sight of the fact that without her consent not an acre of territory could be taken away from Ontario. He believed that the interests of Algoma could be much better served by her remaining a part of Ontario than by becoming a helpless independent Province. (Cheers.)

Mr. LYON (Algoma) said that it was true that a resolution had been moved at Ottawa for the separation of Algoma from Ontario, but it was a buncombe resolution, and did not express the feelings of his constituents generally. (Hear, hear.) He was in favour of Algoma remaining a portion of the Province.

The Bill was reported without amendment.

CONCURRENCE.

The item of \$5,580 for the expense of the Government House was passed.

With regard to the amount of \$3,350 for the Lieutenant-Governor's office,

Mr. WHITE moved to strike out the sum of \$800, salary of Official Secretary, and to reduce the amount for contingencies from \$900 to \$500. He had noticed that the salaries in the Lieutenant-Governor's office had more than doubled since 1897, and the item for contingencies had also largely increased. He believed it necessary to commence somewhere in reducing the expenditure, and moved this amendment with this view.

Mr. MOWAT said this item of the Official Secretary's salary had been discussed when the estimates were being voted on. He had in the meantime made enquiries into the objections which were then

urged against the payment of this salary. He had found that while it was quite correct that this young gentleman, holding the office of Official Secretary, was occupied as a clerk in one of the law offices in the city, yet this in no way interfered with the performance of his official duties. He was sometimes occupied until late at night at work connected with his office. The law firm with whom he was engaged employed a large number of clerks, so that close attention was not required of him, as would have been the case in other offices. He had further enquired as to the necessity of the appointment, and found that the work could not be performed by one man. The business of the Province was increasing in this as in other Departments, making an addition to the staff absolutely necessary. A considerable number of letters came in, frequently from parties who were of opinion that the Lieut.-Governor was the correct officer to address upon the various matters touched upon. These were referred to the various departments, and letters written stating what had been done with them. There were also others of a semi-official character which the writers marked "private," but which have to be answered by the secretaries. There was no country that he knew of in which the Governor's staff was comparatively so small, or whose Department was so economically conducted as in Ontario. This was the wealthiest and most important Province in the Dominion, yet the expenses of this branch of Government were very little if any more than in the others. The effect of reducing this item of \$500 would be to force the Lieut.-Governor to make the expenditure out of his private purse, for the salary connected with the office was not enough to enable the incumbent to fill it satisfactorily without drawing from his own private resources. He trusted the House would have no difficulty in voting down this amendment. (Cheers.)

Mr. WILLS noticed that the charge for salaries had increased from the very first of the incumbency of the present Lieutenant-Governor. He thought the voting of these contingencies in a lump sum was a wrong principle, and claimed that they were not so voted in former years. The House should not only see that the amounts were correctly placed in the estimates, but also that the expenditure was wisely made.

Mr. BETHUNE asked if hon. gentlemen opposite claimed that this amount, irrespective of that of former years, was in excess of what in reality it ought to be, and also if it was in good taste to conduct such a discussion as the present. If this amount for contingencies was properly expended there was nothing more to be said, and if not, the Lieutenant-Governor should not occupy his position another hour. With regard to the young gentleman who occupied the position of Official Secretary he might in justice to him make a few remarks. He had been a clerk in the office of his (Mr. Bethune's) firm, and they had always found him careful and diligent. He did not receive from them any salary, so that he did not necessarily stay in the office during the whole business hours. He (Mr. Bethune) knew as a fact that this young gentleman was very often occupied with his official duties long after business hours, and believed that really he devoted more time to this work than most of the gentlemen engaged on the Civil Service. The salary he received was not large if there was to be any salary given at all, and when the position was offered him by the Lieutenant-Governor no member of the firm with whom he was engaged expressed any objection to his taking it. It was well known that in many cases young men occupying positions in the Civil Service or elsewhere, at the same time utilized whatever time was left at their disposal in the study of the law.

Mr. LAUDER believed that if this case were pleaded before a jury it would have to be more strongly put. The hon. member for Stormont had spoken in a very apologetic tone, and had even asked that the matter be not discussed, and that the young man should be very kindly dealt with. This was not a personal matter but a question of principle. It would not do to reduce the salaries of clerks in the other Departments and leave those in the Lieutenant-Governor's office untouched. He claimed that this young gentleman could not attend to his duties properly except in office hours, which the member for Stormont said he spent in a law office. All they had heard showed that this appointment was not made in the public interest. With regard to the contingencies he believed the voting of this sum in its present shape could not be justified. He alluded to the conduct of supporters of the Government when in opposition criticising the proposed additions to the conservatories of the Government House, &c. He favoured the amendment.

Mr. MEREDITH thought this was not a question of attacking the Lieutenant-Governor, for the money was of course not spent by him but by the officers of his department. He upheld the principle that it was the duty of the people's representatives to look closely into this and all other expenditures.

Mr. HARDY opposed the amendment, saying that to his own knowledge Sir John Macdonald while in power at Ottawa employed a gentleman in his department who was at the same time allowed to occupy a position as articulated clerk.

Mr. MEREDITH—That's a different thing.

Mr. HARDY said that it was with the hon. gentleman altogether a question of whose ox was gored. (Laughter.) He claimed that the hon. gentleman might at least have condemned the principle and pointed to the precedent as one not to be followed. It was not at all an uncommon thing for young men in different employments to be articulated clerks, using their spare time in prosecuting their studies.

The amendment was lost on the following division:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Baker, Barr, Bell, Boulter, Broder, Calvin, CoDe, Coutts, Creighton, Deacon, Flesher, Grange, Harkin, Kean, Lauder, Long, McDougall, McGowan, Meredith, Merrick, Monk, Morris, Mostyn, O'Sullivan, Parkhill, Preston, Richardson, Rosevear, Scott, Tooley, White, Wigle, Wills.—33.

NAYS.—Messrs. Appleby, Ballantyne, Baxter, Bethune, Bishop, Bonfield, Chisholm, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Cole, Crooks, Currie, Deroche, Ferris, Finlayson, Fraser, Gibson, Graham, Grant, Harcourt, Hardy, Hargraft, Hay, Hunter, Lane, Lyon (Algoma), Lyon (Haltou), McCraney, McLaws, McLeod, McMahon, Massie, Master, Miller, Mowat, O'Donoghue, Pardee, Patterson, Paxton, Robinson, Ross, Sexton, Sinclair, Snettinger, Springer, Striker, Watterworth, Widdifield, Williams, Wilson, Wood.—51.

The item was passed.