

ber to point out a single charity they assisted which was not deserving. (Hear, hear.) If there was one thing more than another for which the Government were entitled to credit it was for the aid it granted to charity. The action of the Government had stimulated private charity, and the result was that a great many persons were now assisted who were not assisted in 1868.

Mr. MEREDITH said the leading organ of hon. gentlemen opposite had said it was now a question whether the task of supporting these charities should not be undertaken by the people themselves. Therefore the Treasurer was not justified in his attack upon the hon. member for East Grey. The Treasurer had also tried to raise a sectarian issue against the hon. gentleman in this matter.

Mr. WOOD—I did not mention the word "sectarian."

Mr. MEREDITH—But that was the impression conveyed. He claimed that wherever there were two hospitals the grants were much larger relatively than where there was only one. In support of this he quoted figures to show that Kingston and Ottawa, each having two hospitals, received much larger grants than Hamilton, which had a much larger population than either. Considering the good work done by orphanages the grants to them should be increased, even at the expense of those to hospitals.

Mr. WOOD said that this subject had engaged the attention of the Government, the Inspector of Asylums and Prisons having reported in favour of the change.

It being six o'clock the Committee rose.

After recess,

On the item, Andrew Mercer Reformatory for Females, \$14,914,

Mr. MOWAT stated that the amount expended on the institution to the 31st December last was \$66,813 14.

Mr. LAUDER asked if it was intended to conduct this institution on the same basis as all the other institutions of the Province.

Mr. MOWAT—Yes.

Mr. MEREDITH—What will be the cost of maintaining it?

Mr. FRASER—It will be brought down in the supplementary estimates.

Mr. MEREDITH said doubts had been raised as to whether the Province had a right to retain this property.

Mr. MOWAT said the only question was whether escheated property belonged to the Province or the Dominion. He thought it was contrary to the intent of the British North America Act that property of this sort should go to the Dominion. When Mr. Blake was Minister of Justice he had got an Order in Council passed affirming that the Province was entitled to property escheated for want of heirs, but not to that estreated for crime, and that was his (Mr. Mowat's) own opinion.

The item passed.

On the item, Colonization Roads, \$95,250,

Mr. PARDEE said the vote was \$800 less than the vote of last year.

Mr. MEREDITH—Not more than the expenditure.

Mr. PARDEE said that was quite true. Last year there was an exceptional demand for colonization roads. The \$15,000 which was voted for new and short roads proved to be insufficient, as the number of miles of new road made in that year was greater than the number made in any previous year.

Mr. MEREDITH said it looked as if the Government had made a specially large expenditure last year for colonization roads on account of the general election. Last year \$18,264 had been over expended. He thought the House should be informed of the localities in which the expenditure took place. It appeared to him that a considerable reduction might be made without impairing the service.

Mr. PARDEE said that \$5,000 had been charged against last year which had been over-expended some four or five years ago. The real over-expenditure of last year was about \$13,000. The expenditure

had been made all over the country, from the Ottawa to Lake Superior, and it would be impossible to designate all the localities.

Mr. LAUDER said he noticed the supplies were still taken from Toronto, and desired to know if this were the policy of the Government. He referred to numbers of items for supplies for the colonization roads, and could not understand particularly the dry-goods accounts.

Mr. PARDEE said that there were camps of men, and at least blankets had to be supplied.

Mr. BOULTER said that during the last two years there was much greater satisfaction with the manner of building the roads in his section than formerly; better material was used, and greater care taken in the selection of material. Foremen from the district were more generally employed.

Mr. PARDEE said he had understood that the hon. member for Hastings had promised half the people of a township that they should be made foremen of the roads if he was elected.

Mr. LONG asked if the tenders for supplies were called for by advertisement. He noticed that all those supplying lived in Toronto, and that few if any were manufacturers of the articles they supplied. On the ground of economy he condemned the system of purchasing goods in Toronto and paying to carry them back to Parry Sound.

Mr. PARDEE said the contracts specified that the supplies should be delivered in Toronto. The supplies were furnished as the Government called for them, the contractor in the meantime holding the goods at his own risk. The contract was given to the lowest tender. So far as the pork and flour were concerned, tenders were advertised for; but in the case of molasses and other things, the Government procured the goods at the cheapest places.

Mr. BELL thought that if the contract was invariably given to the lowest tenderer it was strange that only about \$24 had been paid to Tories for these supplies, Government supporters having secured the rest of the patronage.

Mr. MILLER said there was no other way for the Government to buy supplies which they could justify except by tender. He regretted that the Commissioner had not asked for a larger sum for colonization roads, as there was growing up about Lake Nipissing a large population, who had now great difficulty in getting in supplies.

The item passed.

The Committee rose.

The House adjourned at 8:45 o'clock.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—On Monday next—Enquiry of Ministry whether it is the intention of the Government to take any steps for placing beyond further debate the right of the Province to appoint Queen's Counsel, and for maintaining the other Council rights which have been questioned in the judgments of some of the learned Judges of the Supreme Court of the Dominion, on that and other subjects, or by reasonings contained in such judgments.

Mr. Wood—On Tuesday next—Bill respecting the Ontario Reformatory for Boys.

Mr. French—Enquiry whether it is the intention of the Government, in view of the proposed extension of jurisdiction of the Division Courts, to introduce during the present session a measure for the extension of the jurisdiction of the County Courts.