

overlooked by the officer whose duty it was to check them.

In reply to Mr. Meredith.
Mr. WOOD said the proposition was to change the ending of the Provincial year from the 31st Dec. to the 30th Sept.

The resolution was concurred in.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Mr. MOWAT presented a message from the Lieutenant-Governor transmitting the supplementary estimates, which were forthwith referred to a Committee of Supply.

On the item \$23,875, miscellaneous,
Mr. MEREDITH expressed his gratification that the Government had seen its way to the appropriating of \$10,000 as a gratuity to the widow of the late Rev. Dr. Ryerson, treating this as an exceptional case.

Mr. MOWAT said the House and Government had always regarded Dr. Ryerson's case as a most exceptional one. All bore testimony to the immense value to the country and to education of Dr. Ryerson's long services of thirty-two years. It was satisfactory to know that the vote was approved of by hon. gentlemen opposite.

On the item \$4,000 under the same head, a further vote to provide seed grain for Muskoka sufferers,

Mr. MEREDITH took exception to the manner in which the vote for the sufferers in North Ontario had been distributed, it having been given, he alleged, to the member for the Commons, a political friend of hon. gentlemen opposite, in order to further his interests in his own constituency.

Mr. PARDEE said the question as to who distributed the money in North Ontario was not considered of any moment at the time, but it was more convenient to send a cheque through Mr. Wheeler, and it was understood that the municipal council would superintend the distribution.

The item passed.
Mr. HUNTER, in reference to the case of Dr. Ryerson, objected to the principle of granting gratuities to the widows of public servants.

Mr. ROSS thought a bad precedent was being set. He dissented strongly from the proposal to give a \$10,000 gratuity.

Under this head also Mr. Ross drew attention to the necessity for better ventilation and lighting of the Chamber, and hoped something would be done to remedy the matter as much as possible. (Hear, hear.)

The matter was not further discussed.
The item for miscellaneous then passed.

On the item \$13,900 for public Buildings,
Mr. BELL said that he believed the buyer of meat for the asylums was paying two or three cents more for it than he ought, thereby driving out all chance of competition.

Mr. WOOD thought it most unfair for the member to wait till the closing hour of the session to make such a damaging statement when it could not be answered. He thought the statement absurd that a buyer would pay seven or eight cents for meat worth five cents.

The item passed, as did also the remaining items.
Mr. WOOD introduced the Supply Bill granting certain moneys to Her Majesty. The Bill was read a first, second, and third time and passed.

DIVISION COURT DIFFICULTIES.

Mr. LAUDER, in moving the second reading of the Bill amending the Division Courts Act, explained that it was to enable suitors in the Division Courts to move their suits into an adjoining Court and have the privilege of a hearing before another judge. He did not expect to Bill to go through, but he wished to draw attention to the fact of county judges becoming entangled in private feuds and disputes by reason of which certain parties often failed to obtain relief in the Division Courts in the counties they reside in, owing to the enmities and prejudices of the presiding judge. He stated that Judge Miller, of the county of Halton, made statements against the character of Mr. Egan, Deputy-Clerk of the Crown at Milton, statements which no county judge should make. Mr. Egan had made an affidavit stating that he did not believe he could get justice from Judge Miller. This showed the necessity of a change in the law.

Mr. FRASER regretted the making of such charges against a County Court judge in the closing hours of the session. It was most unfair to the judge at such a time, when no answer could be made. He pointed out that the true remedy, if the charges were true, was not by changing the law, but by removing the judge. He pointed out also that in the Superior Courts changes of venue were never granted upon the ground that the judge would be partial. Another objection to the Bill was that it would deprive the Division Courts of their chief benefit, viz., that of cheapness.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Halton) repudiated the charges against Judge Miller—charges he had never seen in the public prints. He believed Judge Miller to be as excellent a judge as most of the County Court judges in Ontario.

Mr. MOWAT concurred with the remarks of the Commissioner of Public Works, and expressed not only his regret, but his amazement and indignation at the observations of the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Lauder). The hon. member should not have made the charges in that House, as there was another and proper tribunal before which he and Mr. Egan could go and obtain any redress they were entitled to. He did not believe there was a single word of truth in what had been said by Mr. Egan, and the fact that the case was brought up in the Legislature, where it could not be investigated, showed there was no truth in what was said.

The motion was discharged.

FEES OF LOCAL MASTERS.

Mr. DEROCHE, in the absence of Mr. Young, asked whether the Government had taken, or was about to take, any action with respect to the petitions or applications of certain local Masters of the High Court of Justice to have their fees commuted.

Mr. MOWAT said that he was considering the matter and would probably recommend shortly that something should be done.

THE TOWNSHIP OF ARTEMISIA.

Mr. LAUDER moved for correspondence relative to the Agricultural Society of Artemisia. Carried.

The House rose at six o'clock.

The House resumed at 7:30.

A Bill to amend the Municipal Act was read a third time and passed.

THE BOUNDARY AWARD.

Mr. MOWAT on rising to move the resolutions regarding the western boundaries of Ontario, of which he had given notice, (and which have been published) was received with cheers. He did not, he said, propose making any lengthy observations. One thing which struck him in this whole matter was the enormous interest involved. The question was one which affected in area one-half of Ontario's territory, and the interest involved was one so extensive as to make the people of Ontario a unit in seeing that their rights, whatever they are, were secured to them. The importance of having an early settlement of the question had been long felt. In the correspondence which took place ten years ago between the Governments of the Dominion and Ontario, the Dominion Government repeatedly recognized and insisted upon the very great importance of an immediate settlement of the question as to the ownership of the territory in dispute. The evils which arise from disputed territory had not then been felt because the country had not well begun to be populated, although a large flow of population at an early day had been anticipated. That anticipation was early realized. A large share of public attention has been directed to the North-West part of this continent, and as a result a considerable population has already gone into this territory. After the population was in, however, and with a probable large increase, it became of special importance now that without further delay this disputed matter should be determined. If this territory remained in other hands than the lands which belonged to Ontario, the wealth Ontario possesses there in timber and mines, are practically lost to this Province. Others, though it might be without any very good title, get control of the sources of our wealth, and experience demonstrated that practically there was no remedy for the evils arising from that cause. It was because of this being a growing evil, and because also that state of things deterred people from settling in the territory, and led capital as well as immigration beyond to the other lands of the North-West, where there was Government and settled laws; it was because of all this that it became of greater importance as time went by to have the boundaries of this Province finally determined. A unanimous award had been reached in favour of a portion of Ontario's contentions. They had been since that extremely forbearing, while he hoped at the same time firm in their demand. The negotiations on the part of the Ontario Government had been of an extremely friendly character. Resolutions were passed by that House stating the claims of Ontario, yet so inoffensively that hon. gentlemen opposite voted with the Government perhaps reluctantly, but still they voted. How had their forbearance been received by the Dominion authorities? How had their friendly spirit been reciprocated? While they were making proposals for the purpose of preventing the evils to which he had referred no attention whatever was paid to them by the Ottawa authorities beyond the bare acknowledgment of the receipt of the despatches. For something like three years they had attempted vainly to get a statement of their views from the Dominion authorities with reference either to a final settlement or a provisional arrangement. The next step taken was the strong one by the Dominion Government, viz., the passing of an Act extending westward the boundaries of Manitoba. By that Act the claim of the Dominion, if they had any, was transferred to Manitoba and a third party brought into the controversy whose consent in the future would have to be obtained to any action as well as that of the Dominion. The intention of the Dominion Government by that Act was proven to be that Manitoba should exercise jurisdiction over that territory which, if it did not belong to Ontario, was claimed by the Dominion as naturally belonging to Manitoba. The Ontario Government protested against that, claiming it to be most unjust to Ontario, and an act which would increase greatly the already existing difficulties, pointing out that the true policy was to confine the westerly limits of Manitoba to the territory beyond dispute. Their expostulations, however, had no effect, and Manitoba had acted upon the transference of the alleged claim of the Dominion. It could not be doubted that this was at the instance of the Dominion Government, for Manitoba had no interest in doing that, as the lands or the timber was reserved by the Dominion, and was not to be under Manitoba. Besides that, Manitoba's revenue was a very small one, not sufficient to bear the expense of organizing and governing such an extent of territory. There could be no doubt, therefore, that the assumption of jurisdiction by Manitoba was owing to the direct and immediate influence of the Dominion Government. They then had a despatch from Ottawa stating officially for the first time that Government's views on the question. The proposals contained in that despatch for the final settlement of the matter were fully discussed in the answer of the Ontario Government placed in the hands of members. But the most remarkable thing about it was the way in which the Dominion proposed to deal with the lands and timber. They declined to act with regard to the land on any provisional arrangement at all. They would enter into no negotiations regarding the lands over which the Dominion Government have been exercising jurisdiction as if they were theirs, licensing, as they have, persons to cut timber very extensively on them. The Dominion refused to consider any proposals with respect to these lands or the timber, but he hoped the House would agree with him that it was a matter absolutely essential to any satisfactory provisional arrangements. (Hear, hear.) If either of the two courses for a settlement suggested in that despatch was taken, years of delay would probably ensue, and during all that time the Dominion would be insisting that they should be left in possession of the lands, to deal with them as they thought proper. That unreasonable proposal showed how impossible it was to come to a proposal satisfactory conclusion at all with the Dominion. Were they to allow things to remain in that condition without taking some step? Were they to allow that large territory gradually to drift into the hands of Manitoba? Were they to allow that large population to form their relations with another Province, to allow the Dominion to make grants of lands, to issue licenses and so forth? It would be a great difficult afterwards to incorporate the settlers of that territory with this Province and familiarize