

Mr. ROSS—The information was only received on the 19th December.

Mr. MOWAT said the Dominion had ceased to claim that it was one against Ontario alone, and they now asserted that it was one against the old Province of Canada. There was also another element of difficulty in the matter, for one of the two Robinson's treaties extended to the American boundary in the west, and outside the lands affected. South, and east of the height of land, there was a large amount of land which the Dominion Government claimed was not in Ontario.

Mr. MEREDITH asked if the Government admitted their liability for whatever the amount of the annuity was properly chargeable to the lands within the Province.

Mr. MOWAT said he did not intend to make any such admission.

Mr. MEREDITH spoke against any further delay in the matter in the interest of the Province. He understood that the Attorney-General had assumed that there was no trust against the lands, and that if there was any it had been assumed by the Dominion on Confederation.

Mr. ROSS (Huron) said when he assumed the position of Treasurer it struck him, as a business man in looking into the matter, that on Confederation, when the debt of the Province was assumed, the Indian annuities were capitalized at \$701,000 and charged to the Province. It seemed strange to him that the Indians had not complained till 1873 of their annuity being insufficient, and this claim not having been allowed till 1875; further, that the Province should be charged with \$140,000 as being arrears up to July, 1867, when he understood that this had been assumed by the Dominion, and also that the additional annuity of \$11,000 should have been capitalized at \$330,000 when the former annuities were capitalized by the payments for twenty years. He concluded by remarking the payment, to his mind, was one which the Dominion Government had made to keep them quiet.

Mr. MORRIS objected to this latter view enunciated by the Treasurer, and expatiated at length on the necessity of keeping faith with the Indians.

The motion was carried.

#### THE IRISH IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. BASKERVILLE moved for a return of all the correspondence with regard to the importation of Irish immigrants.

Mr. HARDY stated that he had nothing new to communicate. It had been arranged that two committees were to send immigrants to this country—persons in the habit of earning their living, who could not get work, or had been evicted from their farms, and also those of good character and good health from the unions. He proceeded to state the extent of the Province's arrangement to be to take care of the people for a few days while in the Dominion sheds, pending employment being found for them, and to send them to the places where this work was found. The Province did not pay any portion of the passage of the people to Quebec or from that place to here. It had been found that the committees, upon the other hand, had not carried out the arrangements, and it had been found that a certain proportion of the persons were not able, or were unwilling, to get their own living. He stated that the Government had given first \$500 and next \$200 for the purpose of relieving the destitute immigrants in Toronto, which sums had been entrusted to the Sisters of the House of Providence. He concluded by stating the correspondence would be brought down as soon as possible.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

The House went into Committee, with Mr. Baxter in the chair, for the consideration of Private Bills. The following bills were adopted:—To incorporate the Dawn Tramway Company; respecting the debt of the county of Middlesex; to authorize the town of Collingwood to issue certain debentures.

Mr. MEREDITH objected to the clause in the Bill to incorporate the Brockville, Westport, & Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company, giving the Council of any municipality which might grant a bonus to the Company the full power to extend the time for the completion of the works on the completion of which the Company would be entitled to such bonus.

Mr. PARDEE said he never knew of a case where any difficulty arose from the insertion of such a clause in an Act.

The bill was then adopted without amendment.

The bill to reduce the capital stock of the English Loan Company was adopted.

The Committee rose, reported the several bills as adopted.

#### THE IRISH IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. MORRIS resumed the debate on Mr. Baskerville's motion regarding the question of Irish immigration. It was very unfortunate that the Government of Ontario should have committed themselves to receive a class of immigrants such as had been sent out last summer. These immigrants were brought from the congested portion of Ireland. The Ontario Government had assumed the responsibility of receiving these unfortunate people. They had been sent out by the Take Committee. He quoted the evidence given by Mr. Lowe, of the Department of Immigration at Ottawa. Some of these people were now living on the private charity of the city of Toronto. They came from the workhouses and poorhouses of these congested portions of Ireland. Mr. HARDY did not think the hon. gentle-

man wished to put the Government in a false position. There never had been an undertaking on the part of the Government to take care of these immigrants. They were sent by the Dominion Government, by the Grand Trunk Railway, to the Dominion Immigration Sheds at Toronto, and the Local Government furnished them with food and gave them passes to different parts of the Province if they could find some place for them to settle.

Mr. MORRIS thought the Ontario Government recognized their responsibility by giving a grant to aid the private charities of the city to assist these destitute immigrants in Toronto. He hoped the Government would recognize their responsibility, and send these people to different parts of the Province where they could get employment.

Mr. ERMATINGER gave an account of the portion of these immigrants who had arrived in St. Thomas.

Mr. CLARKE (Toronto) read extracts from the report of Mr. Armstrong to the Trades Council in which it was stated that the Ontario Government had "dumped" a number of immigrants in a certain town in Bruce. He (Mr. Clarke) would not say that Armstrong was a supporter of the Mowat Government. He thought that gentleman was a Conservative. These immigrants generally found their way back to Toronto.

Mr. FRASER thought the question could be discussed by the hon. gentlemen opposite without insinuating or asserting anything against the Government of Ontario or against the officials or heads of the Departments. There seemed to be a constant desire on the opposite side of the House to bring up every question which affected the Irish of this Province before the House when they became desperate, and brought into the discussion great feeling and passion. He could say for himself that he would be the last man who would defend the Government under the circumstances if he thought the things insinuated by the hon. gentlemen opposite had really occurred. The Opposition had proposed to condemn the action of the Government with reference to these Irish immigrants upon the evidence of Mr. Lowe, which had been published in brief in a newspaper. He (Mr. Fraser) said that if there was any blame to be attached to anyone it was with those on the other side of the Atlantic. The Government of this Province had always been willing to receive able-bodied immigrants who were willing to support themselves and their families, but those in charge on the other side of the Atlantic had not taken proper care to see that none but able-bodied men and domestic servants were sent to this country. There was a demand for agricultural labourers and domestic servants. Why was the Ontario Government to be blamed when the Dominion Government brought these people across the Atlantic and sent them to this Province? The Ontario Government had acted in good faith, and not a tittle of blame rested upon the Provincial officials or the Provincial Government. (Applause.)

Mr. MEREDITH contended that the Government ought to have expected that the emigrants were not of the sort needed for Ontario, and that greater care should have been taken to see that the proper persons were selected.

Mr. O'CONNOR said the article in the Bruce Herald was almost entirely untrue. It was written with a view of damaging the Government, and not with a view of helping the emigrants. He would quote the Bruce Herald on the subject on the 29th June, which would show that they were all fit for work and the right people to be sent to country places. The Bruce Herald, on the day he mentioned, said the people sent to Walkerton "were a respectable looking and intelligent lot of people. They were mostly, or all, evicted tenants from the west coast of Ireland; not a poorhouse man, woman, or child in the whole lot." The men were fit for farm work, although they might not be acquainted with our methods, and the girls were suitable for domestic service. The reason they were not employed was because they asked too much. The girls asked \$8 a month and the young boys wanted \$20. Every one of them could have been employed if they had been reasonable in their demands. He quote from the Bruce Herald again to show that the Reeve and the Mayor were responsible for the emigrants going to Walkerton.

Mr. HESS said the Government had failed in their duty of protecting emigrants.

The motion was carried.

#### EXPENDITURE OF 1884.

Mr. CARNEGIE moved for a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Province between the 1st January and 15th February, 1884. Carried.

#### HAMILTON ASYLUM.

Mr. MONK moved for a return of copies of all contracts for the erection of additions to the Lunatic Asylum at Hamilton, for which appropriation voted in 1883; a statement showing what changes have been made in the plans and specifications for said additions; a statement of the amount paid on account of such additions; copies of all reports of the architect in charge with reference to such changes.

#### HIGH SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS.

Mr. BRODER moved for a return of all Orders in Council, departmental regulations or instructions with regard to the use of text books in the Normal and High Schools.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex) asked if the member for