

don during the election was at Ottawa, and he believed Mr. Isbester, of Section B fame, was registered there at the same time. Very soon news came from Ottawa that \$95,000 a mile had been given for a colonization railway, and the bale of hay and two bags of oats, which were to fulfil the promise, soon made their appearance. The grant was of no use, the road was one which began nowhere and ended nowhere, and was evidently planned for political purposes.

Mr. MERRICK said that some roads had cost \$300 for repairs, and another \$1,260 per mile for construction. He thought the system adopted by the Government was bad.

Mr. AWREY contrasted the expenditure under the Sandfield Macdonald Government and under this Government. Under the former Government 213 miles of road had been built and 441 repaired at a total cost of \$193,000, or an average cost of \$293 per mile, while under this Government 2,513 miles of road had been built and 4,732 repaired at an average cost of \$159. In this calculation he had included 201 bridges under the latter Government and 18 under the Sandfield Macdonald Government.

Hon. T. B. Pardee, Mr. Carnegie, Mr. Creighton, Hon. A. S. Hardy, Mr. Lyon, and Mr. Meredith continued the discussion.

Hon. T. B. PARDEE said he was willing to go over each detail of the expenditure and defend it. He defied hon. gentlemen to lay their finger upon a single expenditure which was corrupt. Before the last elections Mr. Wilkinson, the agent of the Conservatives, complained in Algoma that the Government did not spend nearly enough on colonization roads, that what they spent was a mere pittance; while in Middlesex he said that no money should be spent for that object at all.

Mr. MURRAY said that the fault he had to find with the Government was that they did not place a large enough amount in the estimates. The expenditure was not too large. He approved of the policy of the Department in making what expenditures were necessary in order to complete roads once begun. He thought that the money was judiciously expended, and the Opposition had failed to show any item which was corrupt.

Mr. DILL said there was a good deal of grumbling by Conservatives who wished to have the handling of the money and who therefore wanted to have the present system changed. If the Government would hand over to the municipalities the duty of expending the money it would relieve the Government of a great deal of anxiety and responsibility. He thought the estimate should be increased.

The item passed.

Charges on Crown Lands \$96,900.

Hon. T. B. PARDEE explained the method adopted by the Government for protecting forests from fire, which he believed would save the country large sums of money.

Mr. WOOD said that the Government's system of fire protection was highly spoken of.

Refund account, \$28,172 68.

The items passed.

It being 6 o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

#### AFTER RECESS.

#### PASSED THROUGH COMMITTEE.

The following Bills were passed through Committee of the Whole:—

Mr. Cooke—To authorize the town of Ingersoll to issue debentures.

Mr. Neelon—Respecting the St. Catharines & Niagara Central Railway Co.

Mr. Meredith—To incorporate the London & South-Eastern Railway.

Mr. Meredith—To authorize the city of London to aid the London & South-Eastern Railway Co. and other railways.

#### REPORT.

Hon. C. F. FRASER presented the second report of the Municipal Committee.

#### THE TORONTO BILL.

Mr. MEREDITH, in the absence of Mr. Morris, moved the second reading of the Toronto Bill.

#### SUPPLY.

Hon. O. MOWAT moved that \$40,000 be granted to defray the cost of statute consolidation. He explained that the greater portion of the amount would not be spent this year.

Mr. MEREDITH—What will be the total cost of the consolidation?

Hon. O. MOWAT—The cost of printing and binding 25,000 copies will be \$58,000.

Mr. MEREDITH—What is the staff?

Hon. O. MOWAT—There is a secretary at \$1,000 a month, the law clerk has had to give all his time to the work, and some additional assistance is needed. About \$5,000 will cover the amount.

The item passed.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

On the item of \$45,488 for miscellaneous, Mr. WOOD suggested that the Province should take its own insurance.

Hon. A. M. ROSS said this was properly a

debateable question. The amount this year was for \$6,000 for the hazardous risks which only was due this year.

Mr. CARNEGIE spoke in favour of the Government taking its own risk.

Mr. FERRIS was in favour of insurance. He had been insured for 30 years and never drawn a shilling from it, but still he regarded it as only a measure of prudence to insure. Insurance was always considered an unprofitable investment, and all hoped that they would never get their money back.

Hon. C. F. FRASER said it all depended on the word "if." If a fire did not occur, then the premium was lost; but if a fire occurred, then it was not lost. It was purely a matter of chance, and the only wise thing to do was to do with these public buildings as they would with their own private business, and if a loss came from insuring they would have to stand it.

Mr. O'CONNOR said that the large railway companies of this country insured. He had been told that the insurance companies had lost on the Grand Trunk Railway Company.

Mr. BRODER—That's precarious property.

Mr. O'CONNOR—Not more precarious than lunatic asylums. (Laughter.)

Mr. WOOD thought that it would be very imprudent for the Government to abandon the insurances on the buildings.

Mr. NEELON thought that the buildings should be insured at considerable less than their value.

Hon. G. W. ROSS said that this was the present practice.

#### THE ITEMS PASSED.

The items "unforeseen and unprovided," \$50,000, and "to cover sundry expenses of 1885," \$77,434 99, were passed. The committee rose and reported.

#### CONCURRENCE.

A number of the resolutions passed in Committee of Supply, were concurred in.

The House in Committee on the Bill respecting Mechanics' Institutes.

On motion of Hon. G. W. ROSS the Bill was amended so as to provide that if the directors of a Mechanics' Institute shall for two years neglect to open it to the public, or the members, the Department of Education may take possession of it and dispose of it on conditions to the municipality.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill.

The House went into Committee on the Bill for further improving the law.

Mr. MEREDITH suggested that the clauses relating to a reference of matters to the High Court should be embraced in a separate Bill, as it was almost tempting the Dominion Government to disallow the Act, and then the whole would be nullified. If they were put in a separate Bill then the rest would be saved even if the clauses were disallowed.

Hon. O. MOWAT stated that he would consider the matter.

The Committee rose and reported progress.

#### THE GAME LAW.

Mr. BADGEROW presented the report of the Committee on the Bill to amend the law relating to game and fur-bearing animals.

#### MASTERS AND WORKMEN.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton) moved that the Committee to whom the Bill respecting masters and workmen was referred be discharged from reporting until the Bill had been considered by the Committee on Bill 64 and other legal Bills. He explained that it was impossible to get the Committee together.

Mr. MEREDITH objected to this course being pursued.

Hon. C. F. FRASER suggested that all the members of the Committee to whom was referred Bill No. 46 who are not members of the Bill No. 64 Committee be added to the latter Committee. Mr. Lyon was also added to the reconstructed Committee.

This course was adopted.

The House adjourned at 10:40 p.m.