

that the 3,000 justices who would be appointed if this bill passed would not be active magistrates. If a change were needed it was certainly not to be found in the sweeping change proposed by this bill. These were his opinions, but as he had great confidence in the Municipal Committee, he had no objection to the bill going there. He thought it right, however, to state his views at the outset.

Mr. MEREDITH said it seemed to him they were making the mistake in this Parliament they made in the last, of sending to the Municipal Committee bills to which the Government were opposed and which could not be passed. He thought that this was the place to discuss the principle of a bill, and he hoped that this Parliament would make a good start and discuss and settle those questions in the House. He was not sure that the Attorney-General trusted the people so much as he said. The municipal councillors all over the Province compared very favorably with the appointees of this Government to positions as justices of the peace. He believed if this bill were passed the people would be able to elect magistrates in whom they had confidence, a decided advantage. The promoter of the measure had been out of the din of party politics, occupying for eight years the Speaker's chair. It seemed too bad, therefore, that when the hon. gentleman brought in a bill like this, the result of his matured deliberations, for the Attorney-General to sit upon it as he had done. They on the Opposition side were more considerate, and he (Mr. Meredith) strongly supported the bill.

The bill was read a second time and referred to the Municipal Committee.

THE BUDGET.

Mr. AWREY rose amidst cheers to resume the debate upon the motion to go into Committee of Supply. He said it seemed strange to him to hear gentlemen opposite making comparisons of expenditure with 1871. Since that time the people had over and over again declared their confidence in the Government, thereby making it clear that they believed there had been no unnecessary increases. Gentlemen opposite did not charge extravagance nor did they point out any items which they were prepared to say should be cut down. It was quite true the expenditure was greater. The sum of \$7,337,823 had been expended by this Government over and above what would have been spent had the rate of expenditure of John Sandfield Macdonald's time been maintained. Under the system of the present Government this simply meant that \$7,337,823 had been spent to relieve the burdens of the

people. In 1871 the grants to Public schools amounted to \$172,985, and in 1886 they amounted to \$237,534. Poor schools in 1871 received \$5,590, and in 1886 \$21,706; High schools, 1871, \$71,000; 1886, \$87,000. On county Model schools, training institutes, and other institutions not in existence in 1871, there were large expenditures.

THE GOOD RESULTS

were shown by an increase in the sums spent by the people in support of schools from \$256,000 in 1871 to \$464,110, and by the increase in the Public schools from 4,438 in 1871 to 5,316 in 1885, in Separate schools from 160 to 207. If hon. gentlemen condemned the expenditure on this branch they should rise in their places and say so. On public institutions also there was a largely increased expenditure, from \$171,000 in 1871 to \$609,228 in 1886. Not only was there a large number of inmates in the several institutions established before 1871, but there were many, such as the Central prison, the Mercer reformatory and others,

established since then. The people did not condemn the expenditure of the Government, on the contrary, they petitioned for more asylum accommodation and larger expenditure. Gentlemen opposite said that the receipts from sale of Provincial property were treated as ordinary revenue and so expended. The amount of money so collected under this Government was \$7,500,000. But there had been spent in public buildings \$3,185,247, in public works, roads and bridges \$2,293,249, and in railways \$3,910,000. So that the amounts thus spent in adding to the permanent wealth of the Province was \$2,000,000 more than the territorial revenue. Gentlemen opposite might say that the expenditure on railways should not be counted. But in speaking about the Dominion debt these same gentlemen always sought to offset it by pointing to the Canadian Pacific railway, which had been built by Dominion funds. He then dealt with the question of the surplus, meeting the arguments on each item and showing reasons why it should be counted as an asset. The only charge made by gentlemen opposite with any show of indignation was that there was unjustifiable expenditure on Colonisation roads. But these gentlemen would hardly condemn the principle of these grants, nor could they show any corruption in the expenditure. Since 1871 2,563 miles of road had been built, 4,732 repaired and 201 bridges built. Any gentleman who cared to calculate the rate per mile would find that it was less than under John Sandfield Macdonald. Gentlemen opposite charged extravagance, and yet every one of them justified the enormous expenditures of the Dominion Government—all, except the leader of the Opposition himself. In the late contest it was said the hon. gentleman

RESTED IN HIS TENT

to recover from the wounds given him in the local contest, feeling that he had been wounded in the house of his friends. As the Opposition did not charge corruption and were unable to find serious fault with a single item of expenditure, the policy of the Government should receive the support of the House.

Mr. BIGGAR said he regretted he could not accept the bright view of the finances of the Province that gentlemen opposite took. The comparison was made over and over again by the Government between Ontario and Quebec. But the comparison was not a fair one and did not include all the factors which should be considered. It was true the treasury of Quebec was depleted, but the men who had controlled the destinies of the Province could proudly say they had made themselves poor in order to save the people from direct taxation. They in Quebec were not now thinking, as this Government was, of a resort to direct taxation, but like wise men they were considering the making of a demand upon the Dominion for further assistance. It would be well for the people of Ontario if this Government, now that the Quebec Government was in accord with it, would join with that Government in demanding from the Dominion additional subsidies for Provincial purposes. The Province of Ontario was heavily burdened by direct taxation. For instance, \$800,000 had been spent by Bruce County on public works, and \$9,000 was expended annually by the same county upon roads and bridges. The counties of Quebec were not thus burdened. He considered the surplus question, sustaining the contention of the member for North Grey (Mr. Creighton) that the railway subsidies not yet paid should be considered a present liability. The Government, while claiming a large surplus, was running the Province largely into debt. The people had so high a regard for