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The proportion of the salaries paid was 30 per cent. of the whole expenditure, and the cost per head per week, not including clothing and official salaries, would bring the average up to \$6.04. At the Willard Hospital the proportion of salaries was 30 per cent. and the average cost of maintenance, exclusive of clothing and salaries, was \$2.27; with all included, \$3.40. A contrast in salaries paid showed those of the American institutions to be generally much higher than those of Ontario. Similarly figures were given to show that the number of inmates of those institutions had increased in full proportion to the increase of expenditure.

Mr. Hardy proceeded then to discuss the statements made by the Opposition regarding the annuities of the Province. It was no answer to these men to say that the Dominion Government pursued the same policy as the Ontario Government with respect to the management of these funds, but he (Mr. Hardy) would tell them that it was a perfectly valid argument. It was a mere question of bookkeeping, and he left it to the country to say how far true the criticism of Mr. H. E. Clarke was in a method adopted and carried out by his friends in Ottawa. Coming to the Provincial debt the Commissioner of Crown Lands said that surely a debt which comes due 40 years hence is not a debt of to-day. Is that the way Mr. H. E. Clarke calculates the debt of the Dominion Government? Would he add the total interest of the debentures, representing \$278,000,000, to the principal when he knew that they extended from 20 to 40 years? It would be unfair to do so, and it is as unfair to compute the debt of Ontario by anticipating debts not due.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands then took the member for North Grey under his charge. In his speech Mr. Creighton had said that the Dominion Government did not refuse compound interest on the Common School Fund until the Treasurer told a delegation from the municipalities that it was not settled whether compound interest would be allowed by the Dominion Government. The member for North Grey justified the Dominion Government in breaking faith with this Province. It was insulting to the intelligence of the House for Mr. Creighton to declare that the Dominion Government were justified in withholding the rights of this Province because the Treasurer told a delegation what he was bound as an honest man to tell. It was charged by the Opposition that the Government maintained an army of employees in the public service, but they on his (the speaker's) side of the House might, with more reason, animadvert on the revenue and Customs officers, the postmasters, the volunteer officers and the Colonisation Inspectors in the employ of the Dominion Government. In the Northwest their officers filled the land like locusts. (Applause.) They were not content with these, for they passed a Franchise Act which cost the country \$500,000 in salaries for officers to carry it out. (Applause.) And yet hon. gentlemen opposite talked of waste of money in maintaining asylums and in teaching the deaf and dumb of the Province. It shows how sincere they are in their cry when they support the extravagance of their friends in Ottawa. He was reminded that the Dominion Government spent thousands of dollars in trying to get control of the Inspectors of Liquor Licenses in Ontario. The Government were

also censured by Mr. H. E. Clarke for placing the money coming from the sale of timber to the account of current revenue. Where else could they place it? Is not that the system that was in vogue in old Canada, and that was handed down since Confederation? The only difference between the Federal Government and the Ontario Government in this respect is that the former put all to receipts, but they charge one-half of expenditure to capital account. The Opposition were challenged by the Commissioner of Crown Lands to name any country in the world that pursued any other system than that in vogue in Ontario respecting receipts from woods and forests. Then again the Government were told to harbor and save the timber of the Province. That was a correct policy, and in every case of sales the Government were able to justify the course they adopted. Reasons were given of the cause of sales. The advent of settlers endangered the timber by fires. But after all in seventeen years only 3,270 square miles of timber limits were sold, for which \$2,490,360 was received. How did the Dominion Government stand in this respect. They sold in less than two years, in 1883 and 1884, 5,335 square miles of the timber limits of Ontario—(applause)—for which they received only \$29,000. (Great applause.) "That is to say," continued Mr. Hardy, "they sold twice the amount we did in one-tenth of the time and at 1-80th of the price. And yet these are the men who lecture us on our timber policy. They want us out of power without giving any guarantee that they will not carry out the policy of their friends in Ottawa." (Applause.)

Mr. Meredith rose, the debating talent on his side of the House being otherwise apparently exhausted. He made the usual protest against the introduction into the House of Dominion topics. If the Dominion Government's mode of dealing with timber limits was inferior to that of the Province they had the Mackenzie Administration to thank for the introduction of the present methods. If the Provincial system was superior to that of the Dominion they had the Sandfield Macdonald Government to thank for it, for under that Administration it was inaugurated. The leader of the Opposition proceeded to charge the Government with extravagance and wastefulness in dealing with its Crown Lands, and mentioned several cases in which he alleged this to be conspicuous. As to the increased expenditure, no man of sense would claim that in a progressive Province such as Ontario, expenditures should not increase. Mr. Meredith protested against the duty being imposed upon the Opposition of protesting against every item of expenditure passed by the House, or else always afterwards withholding their criticism. That was not the way with the Ottawa Opposition. As to the figures Mr. Hardy had quoted in regard to the cost of American institutions they did not go for very much. He was, of course,

without knowledge of the particular institutions named, but it was a well-known fact that cost of living was very much higher there than here, and also it was a fact that quite a large proportion of the patients of the American institutions were well paying patients, such as figured hardly at all in the Ontario institutions. Mr. Meredith thought it a pity that the Government—the members of which really must have plenty of time on their hands for their work, he said, could generally be done by first-class clerks. It was a pity, he said, that they had not devoted their attention to devising some scheme for the reduction of the expense of these institutions, such as could no doubt be achieved if they get about it. He thought they were lax in their duty, too, in not having made an attempt to induce the Dominion Government to take over to itself the Central Prison, such as he felt sure was the original intention of Sandfield Macdonald. He closed with a brief reference to the railway annuities and a declaration that he was sure of sitting on the Government side of the House next year.

When the Attorney-General rose at ten minutes after eleven to reply he was greeted with immense applause. He challenged the Opposition to point to a single item of the public assets and liabilities that was concealed from the people. The Opposition were indignant because the people of the country would not be misled by their statements. He would tell them that no perverse, ingenious arguments and unsubstantiated statements would mislead the country. (Applause.) They also talked of the dissipation of public money, but the record of the Government showed there was no waste of the public money. It was put to a righteous use. (Applause.) Nothing astonished him more than the way in which hon. gentlemen opposite had criticised the table of the hon. Treasurer. It was contended by them, one after another, that the railway annuities should be capitalised. Now, there was no ground for the pretence that this was kept from the table with a view to its being kept from the people. The annuities had been issued under an Act that had been fully discussed in the House and reported in the press. The people knew all about the whole matter. The matter was fully discussed and fully understood everywhere in Ontario. There was no attempt made to conceal anything in connection with it. Its omission from the table of assets and liabilities was in no way a concealment. The question was, Should it have been placed there? Following out the business methods of other concerns, it should not appear there. The hon. gentlemen opposite asked them to put down the mortgage they carried in their liabilities, and asked them not to put down among their assets the property on account of which the mortgage was paid. There was a good deal of criticism as to the appearance among assets even of the U. C. School fund, and other funds held by the Dominion Government, and which the Dominion did not deny owing, inasmuch as they consented to pay interest on them. But the Opposition should not treat the table of the Treasurer as if it contained all the assets of the Province. Ontario was richer in assets than any State of the Union or almost any other country in the world. There were its vast resources in Crown Lands.

"Are you going to sell them?" asked Mr. Meredith.

The Attorney-General replied that no doubt they would be sold as occasion demanded, or given away, according as the development of the country required. Then there was the vast wealth of the timber limits. If all the assets the Province could count were included in the Treasurer's table they would amount, not to six or seven millions, but to fifty-six millions, and much more than that. And in those assets there would be nothing that would not be counted by every firm or corporation doing business in a sensible manner. Hon. gentlemen opposite always repudiated any references made to the practices of the Dominion Government, and declared that such arguments had no bearing on the question at issue. It has a bearing on the question. They object to comparisons between the system of bookkeeping in Ottawa and that of the Government of Ontario. They denounce the Government for the same practices as are adopted and approved by their friends in Ottawa. What does this show? It shows that they don't themselves believe what they are endeavoring to make the country believe. They are not honest in their sentiments. (Applause.) The leader of the Opposition declared that no reliance could be placed on the comparative statement of the cost of maintaining asylums in the United States and in Ontario. It shows that he did not inquire enough regarding the matter. He had time enough to do so. The House was asked to remember that the Government challenged the Opposition many years ago with a similar comparison, showing that the asylums in Ontario were maintained at a less cost than in any State of the Union. Either the leader of the Opposition studied the facts or he was afraid to do so. (Applause.) The Attorney-General then turned to the statement made by Meredith to the effect that all the Government Departments with the exception of that of the Attorney-General could be managed by a first-class clerk. "This shows," said Mr. Mowat, "that my hon. friend is trying to convince the country that he can easily carry on the Government." (Applause and laughter.) Speaking of the Treasurer, he said that there was attached to his office the management of the affairs of the asylums, reformatories and Central Prison. These duties involve the exercise of more thought and ability than the Treasurer-ship. If the leader of the Opposition did not know that, it was a proof that he was not sufficiently educated to carry on the Government of the Province. Now, said the Attorney-General, the leader of the Opposition was extremely anxious that no contrast should be drawn between the methods of the Dominion and the Province in regard to the management of Crown lands and timber limits. He did not wonder at it. They had just heard that to secure the very small sum they got last year they had to pay out a still larger sum.

Mr. Meredith asked if the Attorney-General were using the figures of Mr. Gibson, of H. Hon. without verifying them.