

words was that the members of his own profession were not to be trusted to administer public affairs. If this could be said at all it could be said only of the hon. gentleman's own side, for the people had accepted this Cabinet of lawyers as worthy of trust. The Attorney-General did not say there were only two men from whom the Minister of Agriculture could be chosen. The difficulty in filling a Cabinet position on the Liberal side was that there were so many good men it was exceedingly difficult to make a choice. If it were the hon. gentleman's privilege to choose a Cabinet his difficulty would be to find enough men for the places. Formerly the hon. gentleman and his friends used to boast of the popular vote cast for them, but there would hardly be anything of that kind this session. They would not have the member for Toronto (H. E. Clarke) dealing with this subject.

Mr. Clarke—Yes, you will. (Laughter.)

Mr. Fraser said it would be interesting to see how the hon. gentleman could gerrymander the vote so as to make it appear favorable. The leader of the Opposition made a special attack upon the member for Ottawa, dwelling upon the fact that the hon. gentleman was a lumberman, one of a class having large dealings with the Province. He (Mr. Fraser) would like to know on what principle of constitution or common sense it was to be contended that one who was fit to be a representative of the people in the House might not become a member of the Cabinet. The hon. gentleman objected to Mr. Bronson, but as a citizen of London he voted to send Mr. Carling, the brewer, to Ottawa as a member of the Cabinet to deal with matters of internal revenue in which he was deeply interested. (Cheers.) The only meaning of the hon. gentleman's words was that the member for Ottawa would not be disinterested in his advice, but the many people of both sides of politics who knew E. H. Bronson would refuse to listen to such a statement. (Cheers.) The advice of such a man as the member for Ottawa would be disinterested, and in view of his experience and his great ability it would be of the greatest value.

Mr. H. E. Clarke Replies.

Mr. H. E. Clarke said he had been surprised to see a statement made by the hon. Attorney-General on a platform in the city that his Government had received a majority of the votes of the people in the general elections.

Hon. Mr. Mowat—I believe that is true.

Mr. Clarke replied that the Attorney-General might have ascertained that it was not true had he wished to know about the matter. Leaving for a few minutes the subject of whether or not the Government had the popular vote of the country, he referred to the changes in the Cabinet. He deprecated the appointment of Hon. E. H. Bronson to a place as a Minister. Like Caesar's wife the Government ought to be above suspicion. He said he did not wish to say a word against the member for Ottawa, but he ought not to have been taken into the Cabinet. He said he had noticed that the hon. Commissioner of Public Works had not attempted to defend the conduct of the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Fraser—He does not require it. (Applause.)

Mr. Clarke said that perhaps he did not more than the other members of the Cabinet; for they had all been in the recent contest and had violated the policy the Liberal party had laid down years ago of neutrality on the part of the Provincial Government in Dominion politics. The Premier himself had appeared on several platforms in the city and adjacent to it, and, Mr. Clarke said, he must have been justified by the evidence of his influence as shown in the results of the elections. Moreover, Mr. Clarke continued, a scion of the house of Mowat had been put up to run in West Toronto and had been snowed under. The policy which the members of the Cabinet had been advocating had been one supplied by Mr. Erastus Wiman, Mr. Clarke said, and one which Mr. Blake had declared would lead to annexation. The hon. Minister of Agriculture had been going about the country posing as a poor farmer. "He looks like it, doesn't he?" Mr. Clarke asked, pointing to the hon. member for South Oxford. He should have known from the figures accumulated by Mr. Blue that the farmers of Ontario were prosperous, but he had gone about telling them they were in a bad way.

Hon. Mr. Fraser—They voted that way. (Applause.)

The Popular Vote.

Mr. Clarke seemed about to conclude when the Commissioner of Public Works amid laughter from the Ministerialists called for the figures about the popular vote. The member for Toronto, returning to that subject, said he could not understand how the hon. Commissioner of Public Works could make out that the Government had received a majority of the votes cast of 15,000. Taking Toronto there was a popular majority for the Conservatives of 5,642. He was proceeding to explain how he arrived at these figures, and had said, "If you deduct the vote cast for myself, the vote cast for my colleague, Mr. E. F. Clarke, and if you deduct the vote cast for Mr. Armour"—he had arrived at this point in his explanation when he was disconcerted by ironical laughter from the Hon. Mr. Fraser and members of the House. "It was not given for the hon. gentlemen opposite," Mr. Clarke declared. And Mr. Fraser retorted that Mr. Armour's vote had not been given for the Op-

position. "If you take it that way," Mr. Fraser continued, "there is the whole of East Durham for you."

Mr. Clarke resumed—In Ontario there had been 158,902 votes cast, of which 157,444 had been cast against the Government, so that there had been a popular majority against the Government of 1,458. (Opposition applause.)

Hon. Mr. Fraser—Where do you put East Durham? I suppose you claim the whole vote. (Applause.)

Mr. Meredith—It was all cast against the Government. (Opposition applause.)

Hon. Mr. Fraser—Let him speak for himself.

Mr. Clarke—Was it given for the Government?

Hon. Mr. Fraser—We want to know where you put it. (Applause.)

Mr. Clarke—I will tell you more than you want to know. (Opposition applause.)

Hon. Mr. Fraser—Ask the hon. gentleman from East Durham. (Opposition cries of "Order, order.")

Hon. Mr. Fraser (persisting in being heard)—Will the hon. member for Toronto answer me a question?

Mr. Clarke said he would not, but he would tell the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works about East Durham. In that constituency there had been 2,600 votes cast against the Government.

Hon. Mr. Fraser—That is the total vote cast, is it?

Mr. Clarke—Yes. (Ironical laughter from the Ministerial benches and Opposition applause.)

Hon. Mr. Fraser—Where do you put Grenville?

Mr. Clarke—I will leave to the hon. member for East Durham to answer for himself.

Hon. Mr. Fraser—The hon. member for Grenville will say that he got the entire vote of the Liberal party.

Mr. Clarke—He did not get it.

Hon. Mr. Fraser—Well, ask the hon. member himself.

Mr. Clarke said he would not proceed further with the figures he had prepared, but would give the statement to the public press.

Hon. Mr. Fraser—And let the public press laugh at it.

Mr. Clarke repeated his contention that the Government had not a popular majority, and although the Opposition could not say they had received a popular majority, yet it was true, he said, that a popular majority had been cast against the Government. (Opposition applause.) In conclusion of his speech he asked the hon. Treasurer when the public accounts would be brought down.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt replied that he could not set a day, but that it would be early.

Public Accounts.

Mr. Meredith said it was most important that there be a full investigation of the public accounts, and the meeting of the House was so late that he did not see why the accounts of the year should not have been ready if the Treasurer had been attending to his duties. He hoped the committee would meet at once.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt assured Mr. Meredith that it was the desire of the Government, and his desire, to facilitate the fullest investigation of the public accounts.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary presented a number of returns and the House adjourned.

Report on Asylums.

The annual report of the Inspector of Asylums for Insane and Idiots for the official year ending 30th September, 1890, has been laid before the House. At the outset of his report, Mr. Christie refers to the death of the late inspector, Dr. W. T. O'Reilly, in July last. The report says that many important questions are suggested in regard to the care and treatment of the insane, and also to the necessities which will have to be provided for in the future, one of the first of which is that of providing the accommodation which will be required for the constantly increasing number of this afflicted class. It is noted that the average daily number of patients in residence in 1877 was 1,819, and that for the present year ending 30th September last the number was 3,266, showing an average increase during the past fourteen years of 105 patients per annum. And notwithstanding the extensive provision already made and in process of construction by building cottages at Mimico, it does not appear that after they are fully completed the room will be sufficient for any length of time to come, for since the occupation in January last of the two first built cottages two others have been finished, and have been taken possession of with a full complement of patients in each, and the completion of the fifth is now being hurried forward so as to make room principally for female patients who are overcrowding the older institutions. At such a rate the remaining three cottages being constructed will be filled by the end of 1891. The report points out that if greater restrictions were enforced in regard to the selection of patients for admission to the asylums, and those only were awarded admission who could be benefited by curative treatment, the necessity for largely increased accommodation would be lessened. But the chronic insane and those in a state of dementia would still have to be provided for, and the only alternative in the case appears to be that of making it obligatory upon the several counties to care for and support these classes, many of whom are without friends able to help to maintain them. After referring to the omission of County Councils looking after the proper care of insane, destitute people the report says the removals from the counties of