

the recess. Another subject to which he intended to give some attention during the year was that of reforesting. He called for a report from Mr. Phipps upon this, and it had been found that attention had been given more to planting trees upon farming lands than upon reforesting the new territory. He had received communications from eminent authorities on forestry in the United States, and Mr. Phipps had prepared a paper on the subject, but he had been unable to do more than make a beginning in this direction. Mr. Brouson had also gone very exhaustively into this and had prepared a statement which unfortunately could not be acted upon this session. As to the protection of the forests from fire, he regretted that he was unable to consider the motion. He regretted to say that the reforesting of this country was practically impossible without beginning the process in something of the manner of the nursery. It would thus be seen how enormously expensive even in initiation this would be. The progress in the work would be slow and the work itself experimental. The hon. gentleman next took up the timber sales. He did not know that he need go again into it at length. The timber sales were always open. They were advertised for three months to give every person an opportunity of exploring. It was supposed that no man would buy unless he had first explored the reserves. To show that the Government had no intention of forcing them upon the market without ample opportunity for exploration being given, Mr. Hardy referred to instances of timber lands being withdrawn from sale because they were unexplored. The information that the Government received from their officers as to these was kept under lock and key, so that people could not, after having made a purchase with which they might feel dissatisfied, say they had been deceived by the department. The valuation of the timber reserves was a matter that would be attended with very great difficulty. It would necessitate the engagement of a number of men of long experience, and they were very difficult to get. They could get 1,000 men who would apply for the position of ranger, but there was not one in a hundred upon whose information the department could rely. It required enormous experience, the practice of years and years, to enable men to estimate the value of these forests.

There was some little discussion upon the question of the export duty on logs, and Mr. Meredith had a word to say in favor of the encouragement of local industry, the establishment of saw mills on the Canadian side of the border, but Mr. Hardy did not go into the general question. The export duty he quite agreed might cause irritation and probably retaliation, but it applied only to special cases, and there was no reason for taking up the whole question.

The Railway Subsidies.

Mr. Meredith had one more question to raise. There had been no announcement with regard to the railway subsidy proposals. He supposed that as no resolutions had been submitted there were to be no grants this session, but he thought it was due to the promoters of these enterprises that some statement should be made as to the reasons that had influenced the Government with regard to them.

The Attorney-General briefly replied that the Government did not see its way to accede to the requests that had been made this session, but he did not see any advantage in stating the reasons that had influenced them. They might reconsider some of these matters and submit them to the House next session.

The Supply Bill was then passed, and the House rose at 12.40 p.m.

Supplementary Estimates.

The supplementary estimates for 1891 were brought down in the Legislature on Friday. They include grants to county houses of refuge as follows:—

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| County of Elgin..... | \$3,000 |
| “ Lincoln..... | 4,000 |
| “ Norfolk..... | 2,250 |
| “ Welland..... | 4,000 |
| “ Brant..... | 3,500 |
| “ Middlesex..... | 4,000 |
| “ York..... | 4,000 |
| “ Waterloo..... | 4,000 |
| “ Wellington..... | 4,000 |

The following grants were made to hospitals and charities:—

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|--------------------------------------|------------|
| St. Joseph's Hospital, London..... | \$1,531 57 |
| St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton..... | 225 00 |
| Old Ladies' Home, Galt..... | 180 95 |
| Aged Women's Home, London..... | 506 31 |

Among the items of public buildings is one of \$1,500 for the reconstruction of the gardener's cottage at Government House. The public works estimates include \$300 to complete the channel from Indian River to Lake Rosseau, \$750 toward a landing pier at Port Elgin, and \$1,000 for a similar work at Southampton. One of the estimates under Crown lands refunds to holders of timber limits heretofore sold by the Province and taken by the Dominion Government as part of Whitefish Indian reserve \$47,600. The sum of \$4,800 is appropriated for the cost of the Mining Bureau and mining inspection. Among the miscellaneous items is one to cover the expenses of the arbitration with Quebec, \$10,000. For the Drainage Commission \$2,000 is provided for, the salary of referee under the Drainage Act \$3,000, and for other expenses incident to the act, \$1,000. For the Teachers' International Convention \$2,500 is

appropriated. The exhibit for the Imperial Institute is to cost \$1,500, according to the estimate, and for the Jamaica Exhibition expenses \$500 is appropriated. The total sum appropriated for the year by these supplementary estimates is \$148,650.28. The usual vote for the expenses of January, 1892, pending the meeting of the House and the voting of supplies for that year (\$80,000) is also asked for.