

ary form, and in derogation of the rights and principles of the House.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) denied that the Government had not the right to incur the expenditure. In any case of emergency the Government, relying upon their action being approved of by the House, had the right to expend money; and, in this case, if the building had not been proceeded with the prisoners would have remained idle and the work would have been unnecessarily delayed. He quoted constitutional authority in support of his contention. The course pursued in this case was one that would have been taken by any business firm, and he believed it would be sustained by the House.

Mr. McMahon also said that this was an exceptional case in which the action taken was justifiable.

A vote was taken on Mr. Meredith's motion, which was defeated by 23 yeas and 50 nays.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) presented the following returns:—Return showing the indebtedness of the municipalities to the Government on January 1, 1892; return showing dates, persons, prices, etc., re timber berth No. 116, north shore Lake Huron; correspondence with reference to the appointment of A. F. Dulmage as an officer of the Crown Lands Department.

CHEERFULLY GRANTED.

The House then went into committee on the supplementary estimates. When the clause was reached to increase the salary of the Attorney-General by \$2,000 Mr. Meredith said that he could not allow this opportunity to pass without expressing satisfaction at the proposed increase. He understood that it was a delicate thing for a gentleman charged with the administration of the affairs of the Province to propose an increase to his own salary, but the increase was one that met with the hearty approval of the members of the Opposition, as he felt sure it would meet with the approval of the country generally. The item then passed amid applause.

OTHER VOTES.

In the discussion on the various items some objection was taken to an increase of \$600 in the salary of Mr. Hunter, insurance inspector, owing to increased work in looking after the new insurance law.

Mr. Gibson defended the increase, and explained that Mr. Hunter was a specialist deserving of fair remuneration. Such officers in the United States were paid much higher salaries than Mr. Hunter received.

Mr. Clancy took objection to a grant of \$2,000 for defraying the expenses of a commission on dehorning, and said that the whole thing arose out of a newspaper discussion. Mr. Dryden said that it was a question in which the entire farming community was interested, and that it was not merely a newspaper discussion. Several farmers had been prosecuted in the courts for dehorning their cattle, and a strong deputation had urged that a commission should be appointed. The item with others was allowed to pass.

The bill "to empower the University of Toronto to deal with certain Upper Canada College lands" was read a third time.

SALARIES OF OFFICIALS.

When the House was in concurrence in the report of the Committee of Supply, Mr. Clancy moved that the report be referred back to have the salary of the Provincial Inspector of Licenses reduced by \$350 to the amount which was paid to the former inspector, \$1,400. This was defeated by a vote of 29 yeas and 45 nays, Mr. McMahon voting with the Opposition.

On the estimate for Toronto's asylum, Mr. Marter brought along another resolution to refer the report back on the ground that large amounts were paid to officials in the shape of allowances which were not entered in the estimates under the head of salary. He claimed that nearly \$3,000 was allowed to the superintendent of the Toronto asylum in addition to salary.

Mr. Gibson said that he understood that allowances to the superintendent did amount to more than \$2,000. He pro-

mised that he would look into the matter and see if some of the allowances to various officials could not be reduced. He spoke in terms of high praise of the ability of Dr. Clark, superintendent of the asylum.

Mr. Meredith urged that allowances be done away with and a salary given to cover everything.

Mr. Hardy said it was impossible to do away with arrangements that had been entered into years ago, and which were made owing to special circumstances. He could assure the House that the matter would be looked into and a remedy applied where necessary.

Mr. Garrow said that in view of the promises made the amendment ought to be withdrawn, but if this were not agreed to he would move in amendment to the amendment that this House was satisfied that any improvements in the present system would be duly considered and applied by the Government. The vote was taken on Mr. Garrow's amendment, and it was carried by a vote of 48 yeas and 23 nays.

On concurrence in the item for the new asylum at Brockville Mr. Kerns moved in amendment that it was not expedient to establish a new asylum in view of the incomplete nature of the information possessed by the House as to the treatment of the insane. The amendment was lost by 26 to 49.

CLOSING SCENES.

The order paper was cleared and there was a lull in the proceedings. Mr. Gibson (Huron) startled the House by rising and singing in lusty tones "Auld Lang Syne." As soon as the members recovered from their surprise, they also rose, including the Speaker, and joined in the verses, clasping hands in the orthodox manner. Then Mr. Hudson said:—"I move that the Attorney-General give us a song." The motion created uproarious laughter, in the middle of which Mr. Mowat rose and said that he would move in amendment that Mr. Meredith should sing. The Speaker said in his customary fashion, "You have heard the motion and the amendment. Those in favor of the amendment will say aye." The chorus of "ayes" nearly raised the roof and there was no dissenting voice. Mr. Meredith was endeavoring to persuade Mr. McCleary or Mr. McCoil to sing, when Mr. Hardy entered the chamber and handed the Attorney-General a series of resolutions.

Mr. Mowat said that, as the House was in a felicitous mood, he would take advantage of the occasion to move a resolution that would bring joy to many hearts. The claims of the County of Prescott for a subsidy to aid in the construction of a railway had been repeatedly pressed on the Government. It was almost the only county in the Province without a railway. The feeling of the House had been against granting any further subsidies, but Mr. Meredith had spoken in favor of this county this afternoon, and he believed there was a general feeling that a railway in this county should be aided. It was quite an exceptional case and altogether different from others which had requested subsidies. He therefore moved to crown the closing hours of the session by passing a resolution that there be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund to the Vaudreuil & Ottawa Railway a cash bonus of \$2,000 per mile, not exceeding in the whole the sum of \$100,000, to aid in the construction of 50 miles of the said railway, now constructed to the boundary line of the Township of East Hawkesbury, being the continuation thereof through East and West Hawkesbury, Caledonia, Plantagenet and Clarence to the westerly limit of the Township of Clarence, and to pass near the Villages of Vankleek Hill, Alfred and Plantagenet.

Mr. Meredith on behalf of the Opposition agreed in supporting these resolutions.

Mr. Balfour said he had a mandate from his constituency to oppose such a subsidy. He thought an injustice was being done his constituency and entered his formal protest against it.

The resolutions passed their various