

had made application for a supply of timber for his mill, having, Mr. Wood said, under an order in Council respecting the rights of local mills, a perfect right to procure his supply. This application had been, after considerable correspondence, rejected, and Mr. Wood wanted to know the reason for this refusal. He asserted that the Rathbuns, the owners of the limits from which the supply would have come, had exerted their influence against Mr. Chisholm's application, and went on to intimate that the Government had been influenced in its course by a desire to secure the political influence of this powerful firm.

Mr. Hardy replied that there had been no such desire on the part of the Government as to securing the political friendship of Mr. Rathbun, who was a man absorbed in his own business, and, moreover, fully able to take his own part in any argument as to his rights which should arise. He himself had simply investigated the case, and looked at both sides of it. The case was not yet decided. The department is corresponding with Mr. Chisholm, and, in accordance with the usual practice, also with the owners of the timber limits from which the supply would be drawn; the last he thought to be but fair. The course pursued had been the ordinary official one. As regards Mr. Rathbun's share in the matter, the man who had paid a high price for the limits had a right to be heard before another was allowed to walk into them and take timber from them. The order in Council refers to settlers, while Tynendinaga is an old township, and in a radius of a few miles there are ten mills, all of which would have the same right as Mr. Chisholm's to a supply from the limits. Moreover, the limits are 30 miles away, and Mr. Chisholm could buy timber from the settlers close at hand, as Mr. Rathbun is now doing. He had no objection to the correspondence being brought down.

Mr. Wood rejoined briefly, maintaining that the mill was a local necessity, and saying that Mr. Chisholm had been ready to pay Mr. Rathbun some \$5 a thousand to compensate him for the necessary expenses, fire rangers, ground rent, etc. He could not see that the distance from which the timber was brought had any bearing on the case, and thought that he deserved every consideration.

Mr. Meredith observed that this question was one of importance to the country at large, involving as it did the rights of localities to a supply of lumber. It had recently been discussed by one or two Farmers' Institutes, and it was very desirable that some provision for local necessities should be made. These small mill-owners could not buy limits, and, while much may be said on both sides, yet the buyer of a license knows the conditions under which he gets it. As for Mr. Hardy's objection as to the eight or nine other mills which would have equal claims, Mr. Meredith could not see its force, inasmuch as in each case it would be only the immediate locality which would be supplied. The order in Council was loosely framed.

Mr. Hudson brought his local knowledge to bear on the question, and said that there is not 100,000 feet of pine within twenty miles of that locality. The timber in the vicinity purchased by the Rathbuns is cedar, basswood, etc. Mr. Rathbun, while an enterprising man and deserving of protection, should not absolutely monopolize all the timber. He would like to see small Government limits set aside to satisfy the local demand, which is great every year. Mr. Hardy remarked that these limits were sold to the Rathbuns before Confederation, and he and Mr. Hudson got entangled in a highly topographical argument as to the sites of the various local mills. The order was then passed, and the matter came to an end.

THE BUDGET.

Mr. Clancy rose and said that there had been a misunderstanding as to the date of the budget speech, conflicting statements having been made. The public accounts were just down, and there was only one day in which to go over them. Important reports, among them that of the Crown Lands Department, were not down yet, and would contain information which would be necessary to the criticism of the budget speech, and should be in the hands of the members before that was delivered. Inconvenience would be caused by the fact that many members of the Opposition had accepted invitations to the Government dinner for Thursday evening. Moreover, questions on the notice paper, the replies to which would be material to the subject in hand, had not yet been answered. In short, it would be very inconvenient for himself and his friends to have the budget speech delivered so soon, and it would be more convenient if it were delayed till Tuesday.

The Treasurer was not in his place and Hon. Mr. Hardy replied for him. He had never before heard, he said, it contended that the Crown Lands Department report should be down before the delivery of the budget speech, and did not see that that is any more necessary now than formerly. The gentlemen of the Opposition had been urgent to push business on, and as a matter of fact the budget speech was later than usual this year. The members and the country would be disappointed if it were postponed.

Mr. Meredith said that the public accounts and the estimates were both necessary to the criticism of the budget speech, and that it was unfair that the Treasurer should have all his matter before him and have several days in which to make up his statement, and then expect the Opposition to prepare themselves for the debate with the public accounts and the estimates in their hands for only one day. He thought it a shame that so little had been done so far; but he thought that there were other things that could have been done. For instance, the Government measures might have been brought down, few of them being at present in print.

The members of the Government who were present conferred together for a moment, and then Mr. Hardy announced that they would accede to the request of the Opposition.

Just before adjourning Mr. Meredith asked about a return which had been ordered in 1891, about the details of certain license transactions in Northumberland. He thought it had not yet been brought down. Hon. Mr. Gibson thought it had been brought down, but promised to look the matter up. The House then adjourned.

THE ESTIMATES.

The estimates of the expenditure for 1894 were laid on the table of the House to-day. They contain nothing of a sensational character. There is every indication of the exercise of stringent economy in the various departments of Government service. The estimated expenditure for the year is \$3,415,663. Of this sum \$3,058,386 23 will be for current expenditure, \$333,962 on capital account and \$23,314 86 for other purposes. Last year the estimates totalled \$3,559,185. The current expenditure was put at somewhat less than this year and the expenditure on capital account at considerably more. The total expenditure last year, aside from that on account of railway and drainage debentures and other matters not included in the appropriation, was \$3,371,748 98. The details of the estimated expenditure are as follows:—

Civil government.....	\$244,005 00
Legislation	124,300 00
Administration of justice.....	414,322 00
Education	685 142 16
Public institutions, maintenance	770,623 00
Immigration	8,225 00
Agriculture	177,775 00
Hospitals and charities.....	176,159 07
Maintenance and repairs of Government and departmental buildings	75,246 00
Public buildings—	
(1) Repairs	14,100 00
(2) Capital account.....	207,290 00
Public works—	
(1) Repairs	14,090 00
(2) Capital account.....	22,302 00
Colonization roads (on capital account)	104,370 00
Charges on Crown lands.....	125,309 00
Refund account.....	23,314 86
Miscellaneous expenditure.....	179,190 00
Unforeseen and unprovided.....	50,000 00

Total\$3,415,663 00

Under the heading of miscellaneous this year comes the important item elections, the estimated cost of which is \$86,000 as against \$6,000 last year. Here also were found the following items which had no place in last year's estimates:—retiring allowance to James Carlyle, M.D., mathematical master, Normal School, \$2,000; gratuity to Stephen Cope, former engineer London Asylum, \$740; gratuity to widow of Thomas Quinn, late bursar Central Prison, \$1,000; gratuity to Henry Butwell, late foreman brickmaking industry at Central Prison, \$1,600; monument to Northwest volunteers, on condition that a like amount is given by the Federal Government, \$1,000; Canadian Institute, for binding reports, \$1,000; refund part forfeiture, Wm. Deacon, \$250; T. A. Marrin, in consideration of injuries received in the service of the Legislature, \$350.

Under the head of public buildings \$16,680 is set apart for equipment, furnishing and fitting up of new Parliamentary and departmental buildings, laying out of grounds, etc.

Under public institutions, maintenance, comes an item of \$15,000 to cover salaries of staff and expenses of maintenance for the broken part of the year of the new asylum at Brockville.