

enues permitted it, we would, I venture to say, without a dissenting voice, make even more substantial increases each year to our votes for educational purposes. We spent in 1893 under the head of education \$662,521. This is \$33,077 more than we spent in 1888, and \$149,174 more than we spent in 1883. No fair-minded person seeks to find in these large increases a matter of legitimate criticism, or because of them attach a particle of blame to the Administration. On the contrary, a neglect on the part of the Government to make prompt and adequate provision for those pressing educational needs which from time to time force themselves upon our notice would loudly call for well-merited rebuke. During the last ten years our educational grants in the aggregate have amounted to \$5,968,710. In other words, we have in ten years directly returned to the people this vast sum of money to be spent by them in lessening their local educational rate bills. Each year brings with it new educational expenditures, imperatively called for by the growing needs of our expanding system. A few illustrations will, I hope, not be out of place. In 1890, for example—I will take recent years—we appropriated money for the first time for a training school for French teachers, and for three years we have spent \$950 each year for this purpose. This expenditure has led to very satisfactory results. Hon. gentlemen will, I know, read with great interest a clear and full report of this subject recently issued by the Education Department. In 1891 we gave our first grant to kindergarten schools, and since that time we have spent \$7,370 for their encouragement. This special expenditure is approved of by every one who has given any attention, even the slightest, to educational problems. We have 66 kindergarten schools in the Province, employing 160 teachers, and having an attendance of nearly 7,900 scholars. We also began to assist night schools in 1891, and our grants in their aid since that date have amounted to \$2,762. In 1892 our first expenditure in connection with the Public School leaving examination was incurred, and in two years we have given for this purpose \$1,970. In 1891 also we commenced our grants under the various heads of training teachers in new districts, School of Pedagogy, and school inspection in cities and towns, and since that time we have spent for these three new services, respectively, and in the order named \$2,385, \$18,188, and \$9,045. In the short space of three years therefore our educational expenditures in completely new directions, in which we had hitherto not spent anything, have aggregated no less a sum than \$44,570. And these are samples only of increased ex-

penditures to which not one word of objection was ever taken in this House or elsewhere. I have said that our educational system is expanding and that therefore increased expenditures year by year are unavoidable. I will refer briefly to some facts in support of this statement. In 1892 we had 397 more Public School teachers and 95 more High School teachers than we had in 1889. We had 65 more Mechanics' Institutes and free libraries in 1893 than in 1889, and therefore while our grants to Mechanics' Institutes and libraries amounted to \$31,429 in 1889, they were increased to \$44,476 in 1893. We spent \$4,500 more on our Normal Schools in 1893 than we did in 1889. We had nine more High Schools and 197 more Public Schools in 1893 than in 1889. We had 4,200 more High School pupils in 1892 than in 1889, and our High School grant was \$2,100 larger in 1893 than in 1889. Our grants to Public, Separate and poor schools were \$4,673 more in 1893 than in 1889. Nor have we had occasion at any time to regret any of these new or increased expenditures. The position of the Province, educationally considered, is admittedly an enviable one. No country offers to its every child, all things considered, greater or better school facilities or privileges than ours. While primary education, the education imparted in our Public Schools, is our first and chief concern, we have not neglected the secondary education which our High Schools afford. Indeed, we dare not do so, since the healthy and sound growth of the one is inseparably connected with that of the other. I will be allowed, sir, in this connection to remind the House of the glowing tribute paid to our school system by Sir Richard Webster, the cultured and scholarly Attorney-General of Lord Salisbury's Government, who, in speaking of our educational exhibit at Chicago, said (I give his own words), "That it was one of the most beautiful and instructive in the whole exhibition; that it was the only exhibit which at all approached his ideal of what an educational exhibit should be; that it was the most perfect in arrangement, and explanatory in a simple and satisfactory way of the finest practical system of public education from the kindergarten to the University that the world affords today." A few months ago several of the

principals of the Normal Schools of New York State, men of very high standing educationally, visited this city, inspected our various educational institutions, and made most careful inquiry concerning them. These learned and experienced professors and teachers publicly spoke in the very highest terms of our school system in general, and especially of our provision for giving to every teacher a professional training. The numerous awards secured by our educational exhibit at the Chicago Exposition, to which the Minister in charge will make extended reference, furnish clearest proof that this Province, in the very important matter of education, has won for itself an enviable position. (Ministerial applause.)

#### PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Our largest single appropriation is that voted for the maintenance of our public institutions. We vote now each year three times as much for this service as we did twenty years ago. Our annual appropriation is 25 per cent. more than it was ten years ago. We spent in 1893 for this service \$128,095 more than we did five years ago, and \$170,452 more than we did ten years ago. We expended in 1893 for this one purpose the enormous sum of \$778,839, which is more than one-fifth of our total expenditures for that year. And this House, I am glad to say, is practically unanimous in making this large yearly appropriation for this very important service. It is true that objection has been taken in committee by one or two members in regard to some very trifling matters of detail. It is contended, for example, by some members of the Opposition that as to some of the table supplies purchased for the asylums a saving, admittedly very inconsiderable in amount, could be effected. Even if this contention were well founded, and I do not admit it for a single moment, all the items thus objected to in this large yearly appropriation of \$800,000 would not in the aggregate amount to 1-10th of 1 per cent. In caring for our unfortunate insane, we cannot ignore the serious responsibilities we have assumed. Our assumption of these responsibilities means, be it remembered, that the burdens of the various municipalities in the Province are lightened exactly in proportion to the expense which the Province from time to time incurs. No State in the Union, no other Province in the Dominion, assumes these responsibilities to the same extent. We must continue to provide for the insane, and to furnish additional accommodation when required, or else, as unfortunately happened not many years ago, allow them to drift into and occupy cells in our county gaols. We must furnish them with comfortable homes and provide them with good, wholesome and nutritious food. Our new cottage asylum at Mimico has accommodation for 560 patients. During last year it had under treatment 593 patients. The new Orillia Asylum has accommodation for 550 patients, and last year it had under treatment at different times 553 inmates. Later on I will make further reference to these new buildings. The rapidly increasing number of patients compelled us to provide this enlarged accommodation, and to incur therefor heavy capital expenditures. In our asylums we had in 1887 3,553 inmates, in 1888 3,808 inmates, in 1889 3,953 inmates, in 1890 4,187 inmates, in 1891 4,972 inmates, in 1892 4,785 inmates, in 1893 4,893 inmates, being an increase of 1,340 patients in six years. The extra accommodation provided in 1891 accounts for the increased admissions of that year. With this constantly increasing number of patients, no one save a charlatan will expect either stationary or decreasing expenditure. At all times the Minister in charge of these institutions has earnestly and methodically aimed at two things, namely, rigid economy and highest efficiency. He has succeeded in a striking degree in both regards. I could quote, sir, from the highest and most impartial authority, and give to the House the testimony of experts and alienists of distinguished reputation, and prove conclusively that our large asylums, which now, taken together, contain nearly 5,000 inmates, the maintenance of which costs the Province more than \$1,370 a day, are second to none in the matter of efficient management, when compared with those of any other State or country. I need not argue this point. Hon. members of the Opposition are not disposed to dispute it. They prefer, as we do, while rejoicing at the fact, to determine to leave nothing undone which would lighten the sufferings of the afflicted of this Province, or place within their reach the best possible available treatment. As regards the other question, that of economy, how is it, I want to know, that the per capita cost for maintenance of patients in our asylums is noticeably lower than that of similar institutions elsewhere? I have at hand a schedule showing the cost per patient according to the last return in each of 78 asylums in the United States.