

and which, in the speaker's opinion, is an unnecessary institution? Mr. Clancy charged all the expense for civil government of the department to the college, and yet the college only absorbed two-fifths of that. He should have deducted the expense of the buildings as going against capital account. As for salaries, was not the teaching profession of the Province underpaid? As for the charge that the farm does not pay, was it not meant that the farm should teach the farmers' sons, and if it effected that, was not its object effected? There are cities, such as Ottawa and Toronto, where the average teachers' salaries are higher than in the Guelph college, but which had not been cited by the Opposition in the comparison made. Besides, these teachers in Guelph had practically no vacation, as opposed to the long vacations enjoyed by other teachers. Again, how were they to retain the professors? The Dominion had taken one professor away from them because the Province would not pay the salary the Dominion was willing to pay. Mr. Balfour briefly referred to the criticisms of the school system, and then touched upon Mr. Clarke's assertion about the assets. The same paid by the Dominion had simply been put in the banks, and was still an asset to the Province, while every dollar coming in from the Crown Lands Department was invested for the good of the people of the Province. He was of opinion that the Government had fostered the temperance sentiment of the country and challenged proof of the assertion that the license system was used for political purposes. There was no proof to back these assertions. The Opposition had never asked for a commission.

Mr. Whitney—We ask for it now.

Mr. Balfour then cleverly showed a clash between Mr. Clancy and Mr. Clarke. Mr. Clancy had called the succession duty an infamous duty. Was there anything more infamous, then, than Mr. Clarke's assertion that the tax was a proper one? Mr. Balfour then alluded in strong terms to the excellent financial record of the Government, and concluded with an expression of confidence in the result of the coming election. Mr. Balfour spoke for about an hour and a quarter.

Mr. White continued the discussion. He repeated the arguments of the Opposition in regard to the alleged extravagance and carelessness in dealing with the Province's timber resources. But for a heavy draft on the capital of the Province the Treasurer would have had to confront the House confessing a large deficit. Coming to the expenditure in connection with the Central Prison, Mr. White complained of an absence of details in regard to the receipts and expenditure in connection with the binding twine industry established there.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt said he had already informed the House that the detailed statement would appear in the report of the Inspector of Public Institutions, and an abstract only appeared in the public accounts.

Mr. White said it was difficult to pick out the various items of expenditure connected with the Central Prison, so scattered were they, but so far as he could gather the total expenditure on account of salaries, maintenance, binding twine industry, and other matters, appeared to be \$245,841. The revenue was placed at \$86,000, so that there was a loss to the Province of \$159,841. Of course the year was exceptional in its expenditure on account of machinery, etc. Hon. gentlemen might say it was unreasonable to expect that a prison should be a paying institution, and there might be something in it; still the Central Prison compared unfavorably with some other such institutions. He mentioned specially the House of Correction at Detroit, where, after paying all expenses, the sum of \$52,000 had been handed over to the City of Detroit. Mr. White admitted that some of the inmates in the House of Correction paid their board, but the amount of this was not sufficient to begin to account for the difference. Mr. White then criticized the management of the Education Department, which he said had been such that when the Minister of Education went back for the judgment of the people on his course he would find the general opinion to be that George Washington Ross had fed at the public crib long enough. (Opposition laughter and applause.) Continuing his reference to the Minister of Education, Mr. White quoted sundry items appearing in the expenses of the department, which he said showed that the hon. gentleman "never put his hand in the flesh-pots of Egypt but he took it out full of gold coin." (Opposition laughter.) Mr. White condemned the management of the Agricultural College. There was no reason why there should not be a much larger revenue from the farm than was now obtained. He condemned the increases for civil government and legislation. There was no more legislation now than twenty years ago, though the Attorney-General tried to make it look more by consolidating the statutes and sending them around with a red cover on. (Opposition laughter.) He

denied that the present Government had any real surplus. Sandfield Macdonald used to have one. The Government had wasted this and a good deal more, and would be held to account for it by the people of the Province. (Opposition applause.) The hon. Attorney-General was smiling, he noticed, because his conscience was no doubt smiting him, but he would find it no smiling matter when he came to reckon with the people. It was now 6 o'clock, and the Speaker left the chair when Mr. White concluded.

#### AFTER RECESS.

When the House resumed its sitting at 8 o'clock Mr. W. B. Wood continued the debate. He alluded briefly to Mr. White's speech, and took up one or two items in it. For instance, the comparison between the House of Correction in Michigan and the Central Prison was not a fair one, for prisoners are sent to the former institution from almost every State in the Union, at the expense of the National Government. A proper deduction being made for these, it will be seen that the cost per capita in Detroit is greater than that in the Central Prison. The attack on the Agricultural College Mr. Wood regarded as weak. The cost of the farm was not the measure of the institution's usefulness. The experiments made, the improvement in dairy products due to the college, the farmers' institutes, were all of the utmost value to the farming classes. Mr. Wood then touched upon the surplus. Vain attempts had been made to prove it less than the Provincial Treasurer made it, but if that gentleman's statement erred in any particular it was on the side of moderation. To include all the assets would show a surplus of \$50,000,000, not \$6,000,000. The Opposition argued as if a Government's great and only duty was to build up a surplus, and yet they seemed much delighted at proving to their own satisfaction that the surplus was non-existent.

It was hard to satisfy them. A few years ago serious doubts were cast upon the value of the Province's Dominion bonds, and now that the Dominion had paid in every dollar claimed, with interest at 6 per cent., the Government was blamed for taking the money. As for Mr. Clancy's claim that there is not a dollar in the Treasury, let him explain whence the annual item of \$300,000 interest comes. A given amount of interest represents a certain amount of capital solidly invested. In any case, the question is not what the Government is hoarding, but, were the affairs of the Province managed with due economy, combined with efficiency? And as long as the Government adhered to the policy of the past the people would simply be amused at the frantic attempts of the Opposition to discredit the surplus. The people knew that the Government had been able to bear year by year a larger share of the burdens of municipalities, and to grant increasing sums to agriculture, and yet had not decreased the surplus by one dollar. As for Mr. Meredith's remark that the expenditure on the farmers is but giving them their own money back again, he could point to the Dominion Government as one that had failed to do that act of justice to the farmers. That Government had each succeeding year taken a larger and larger amount of their property for the enrichment of a few men who were permitted to form combines; and yet Mr. Meredith had never raised his voice against that gross abuse of the rights of the farmers, for whom he was now so solicitous. Instead of commending the Ontario Government for using to the full every vestige of power which it possessed in assisting every year more largely the various associations and organizations of the farmers, Mr. Meredith found refuge in the commonplace remark that it was only returning their own money back to the farmers. It would take something more to close the eyes of the farmer to the assistance he was receiving from the Mowat Administration, and to the unjust burdens he was bearing as the result of the policy of Mr. Meredith's friends of the Dominion Government. The policy of the leader of the Opposition, as he understood it, was that we should go to some other country and borrow money and pay interest on it, rather than raise money by disposing of the timber resources of the Province. (Opposition cries of "No, no.") Hon. gentlemen opposite said "No," but he thought no other conclusion could be drawn from his speech in the debate on the address, as reported in the public press. He went even further. He said the interest on the money so borrowed would amount to less than the increase of value that would accrue to the timber by allowing it to stand.

Mr. A. F. Wood said that what Mr. Meredith had really said was that it would be better to borrow money than to use the timber resources as they had been used.

Mr. W. B. Wood, continuing, said the Opposition leader had the faculty of changing his opinion very often and very easily. He remembered a few years ago, when the question of railway debentures