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torney-General's covered only one. Mr. Meredith said further the Government had been very lax in not having annually passed the motion referring the accounts. Consequently, ever since 1874 the committee had been acting ultra vires.

The Attorney-General said he had not known there were two offices concerned. He had no objection to the Peterboro' office being also covered by his amendment.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt went into the matter at some length. He emphatically denied there had been an attempt to postpone or burk inquiry. The question was purely one of procedure. The members of the committee who supported the Government had again and again invited Mr. Clancy to ask the House to give the committee the necessary power to investigate the points he wished to inquire into, and had as warmly urged him to call Mr. Johnson, which he had promised to do, but had not so far done. Mr. Harcourt said he knew of no reason why every Registrar, every Deputy Registrar and every clerk in a registry office should not be called and examined, so far as anything that might relate to the Government was concerned.

Mr. A. F. Wood complained of the narrowing of the inquiry, and moved an amendment to the amendment, to the effect that the committee should have power to examine witnesses as to the inspection of the registry offices from which the salary of the inspector of registry offices is paid.

Mr. Clancy contended that the committee had a right to investigate the acts of the inspector, and to examine into the way in which he discharged his duties by calling these witnesses under discussion, so as to ascertain if the salary was paid for the purposes for which it was voted by the House. The Attorney-General was taking a grave responsibility in limiting the rights of the committee.

Mr. Awrey observed that Mr. Clancy was evidently endeavoring to create the impression that an inquiry was being refused. Mr. Clancy's claims were growing, for until to-day he had not suggested that an investigation should be held in relation to all the registry offices of the Province. Mr. Awrey then reviewed the circumstances under discussion, holding that the Opposition were continually adding to their requests. First it was the Registrars of East Northumberland and Peterboro' whose offices should be investigated; then, when the Government was willing to grant the investigation, power was asked to investigate all the registry offices. What was wanted was a fishing expedition, and the request was made at a very late hour in the session. The inquiry should be confined to a certain definite number of cases, and a roving commission should not be sent out. If power was given to examine into all the registry offices, the two or three mentioned would be inquired into, and then propositions would be made for more investigations, which the Liberal members would be obliged to resist on the ground of sheer lack of time; and then again the cry of burking inquiry would be raised.

The vote was then taken on Mr. Wood's amendment to the amendment, which was defeated by 46 to 31.

The division was on straight party lines, the three independent members, Messrs. G. Campbell, McNaughton and McCallum, voting with the Opposition.

The amendment by the Attorney-General was then voted on, with the result that the yeas and nays were exactly reversed and the amendment carried. The original motion was declared lost on the same vote.

It being then 6 o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

AFTER RECESS.

The House went into Committee of Supply on the estimates for the maintenance of public institutions. The Provincial Secretary explained the items at considerable length. A discussion of some length occurred over an allowance for rent made to the Bursar of the Toronto Insane Asylum. Mr. Clancy argued there was no justification for furnishing an officer with a residence. They should all be paid by salary.

Hon. Mr. Gibson said it was convenient for some officers to live in the institutions with which they were connected. In the case of the Bursar he used to be provided with a house on the grounds. It had been necessary to take this from him and give him an allowance instead. The allowance equalized his salary with that of the London Asylum Bursar, who had a house besides.

Mr. A. F. Wood and Mr. E. F. Clarke discussed the item from Mr. Clancy's standpoint.

Mr. Tait complained of the waste of time, and said the whole thing had been fully discussed each year for two or three years past.

Mr. Meredith said he thought the time had come when a radical investigation could be made into the asylums for these institutions, with a view to seeing whether or not the expenses per capita could not be reduced without harm to the inmates. He thought it was unnecessary that a great

many of these inmates should receive hospital treatment. They were in many cases, unfortunately, permanently insane, and were not amenable to medical treatment. Medical treatment of these, therefore, was an unnecessary expense. He thought there was looseness as to requiring the relatives of many patients contributing to their maintenance.

Hon. Mr. Gibson said there was no such looseness. Great care was taken in all cases where relief was granted in this way. He gave it his personal attention. He admitted the importance of the suggestion for radical investigation, such as Mr. Meredith had made. The Government had looked into it already very carefully, and consulted in Council with the principal officials concerned. It might be possible some time, though the Government was not at present ready to take the matter up, to devise some scheme whereby the municipalities might gradually assume a portion of the expense. To establish a new institution for the chronic insane would only be to multiply the existing institutions. Moreover, it was to be remembered that many of these chronic cases, being harmless, earned their own living in different ways in the institutions.

The debate was continued by Messrs. A. F. Wood, Whitney and Marter. Mr. Marter complained of looseness in buying supplies and extravagance in management generally. Mr. Harcourt said Mr. Marter was eloquently vague in his charges. He had labored for weeks in the Public Accounts Committee to prove the truth of his charges, and had signally failed. Mr. Meredith said it had become the Treasurer of the Province to sneer at the attempts of Mr. Marter to check the expenditure of the Province.

The discussion of the items was continued until about 11 o'clock, by which time the estimates for the asylums at Toronto, London and Hamilton had been disposed of. The committee then rose and the House adjourned.