

...nce that the Govern-
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place on one side or the other.

MR. CONMEE.

Mr. Conmee said that there could be no independence if the people were not prepared to condemn corruption. Where was it to be found but at Ottawa, where Mr. Matheson's friends were in control? Evidence of this was to be found in the Curran bridge job and the shameless waste of the timber under their control. Mr. Marter urged the Government to do something to settle up the country, and in the next breath he accused them of spending too much money in surveys. While there was a large settlement in Algoma and the north, the Legislature ought to do still more to open up that country. The expenditure on the diamond drill was justifiable, too, Mr. Conmee went on, and all done to help the mining interests of the Province was as defensible as sums expended on agriculture, for the two went hand in hand. The mineral-bearing area of the Province was greater than that of England, Ireland, Scotland, France and Germany, and should be developed. Mr. Conmee then turned to the question of the increase of the expenditure in the last 20 years, and declared that John Sandfield Macdonald's surplus had not been hoarded up in the banks, at a small interest, but had been returned to the people in many ways, and had thereby caused an era of great prosperity. Furthermore, that Government had entailed on the present Government an expenditure of millions for railway aid, while the present Government has spent about \$1,000,000 for municipal drainage, and large sums have been spent in various beneficial undertakings which the former Government had not touched. What the Opposition should do, he said, was to point out places where money had been wrongfully spent.

Mr. Conmee then defended the Public Schools system. Their improvement by the addition of the fifth form lay with the people themselves, and he denied that the schools of to-day are less efficient than they were 20 or 30 years ago. Next Mr. Conmee dealt with the question of the expenditure upon public institutions, and declared that the principle of tenders was carried out wherever practicable for all heavier lines of supplies, while for smaller lines of goods it would not, owing to the fluctuations of the market, be economical to buy by tender; no large business would be carried out on any other lines.

If there was one thing hon. gentlemen opposite should not talk of it was the timber policy of the Government, Mr. Conmee went on. In his district the previous Government had given 5,000 square miles of timber lands to some 50 party heelers for little more than \$5,000. When the present Government came in public competition came in, and the heelers did not get it. Mr. Conmee went on to hold that the House would not have done its duty until it should have established a school for miners in the west, on the same footing as the Ontario Agricultural College. He entered into a vigorous defence of the nature of the northern districts, especially in the Rainy River district, is magnificent land. The Government was not to be condemned for spending a few dollars upon surveying this land, but it was to be condemned for not having had it all surveyed. The Government was not too lavish; it was too stingy a Government, and every item of its expenditure upon these districts was justifiable. He expected that the Patrons would agree with him that it was good to make the country attractive to settlers. Figure as they pleased the fact was that the Ontario Government had never imposed a cent of taxes, had conferred immense benefits on the people, and had magnificent assets left. They might have wasted these assets; they might have put them into Tay canals and Curran bridges, but they had husbanded them, and managed the resources of the country wisely. The country had prospered, and prospered more than it would have done under the management of the hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. O. A. Howland moved the adjournment of the debate at 10 o'clock, and, early as the hour was the Government assented and the House arose.

THE PROVINCIAL ESTIMATES.

The total sum which the Legislature is asked to vote for the administration of the affairs of the Province for 1895 is \$3,401,905 43, as compared with \$3,415,663 09 last year, a decrease of \$13,757 66.

The items are \$3,048,285 61 for current expenditure, \$328,636 for capital account, and \$24,983 82 for other purposes. For civil government the vote is \$246,402 50, as against \$244,230 in 1894, an increase of \$2,272 50; for legislation, \$128,600, as against \$124,300 in 1894, an increase of \$4,300. For administration of justice the vote is \$417,317, as against \$416,550 84, an increase of \$766 16. For education, \$692,375 44 is asked as against \$685,192 16, an increase of \$7,187 28. Some of the items in this large sum are \$242,495 44 for Public and Separate Schools, a decrease of \$299 22 from last year; \$100,000 for High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, in which there is no change; \$61,300 for superannuated and Public and High School teachers; \$45,000 for schools in unorganized districts and poor schools; \$3,000 for kindergarten schools, and \$2,400 for Teachers' Institutes, in all of which there is no change; \$9,300 for Model Schools, an increase of \$150; \$59,350 for school inspection, a decrease of \$320; \$22,050 for departmental examinations, an increase of \$2,400; \$7,000 for the Ontario School of Pedagogy, an increase of \$192 50; \$24,454 for the Toronto and \$22,260 for the Ottawa Normal School, an increase of \$264; \$5,300 for the library and museum, a decrease of \$50; \$21,220 for the School of Practical Science, an increase of \$1,100, and \$55,950 for Mechanics' Institutes and literary and scientific art schools, an increase of \$1,250. For maintenance of public institutions \$787,450 is asked, as compared with \$772,063, an increase of \$15,387, an increase of \$21,999 in the Brockville Asylum largely accounting for this. For immigration the vote is \$8,425, an increase of \$200. In agriculture the sum asked for is \$183,486, as compared with \$182,925 in 1894, an increase of \$561. One

feature of this is that no provision is made for the Central Farmers' Institute, which formerly absorbed \$800, and which sum is saved. The sum of \$1,800 goes for practical instruction in fruit spraying, a new departure. The vote for experimental fruit stations is \$2,000, instead of \$1,000. For expenses of lectures for Farmers' Institutes the sum of \$5,000 is set apart, instead of \$3,000, and there is a decrease of \$1,500 for sundries. There is a slight increase, \$250, for the Ontario Experimental Union. For hospitals and charities \$190,416 57 is asked, as against \$183,059 07 last year, an increase of \$7,357 50. For the maintenance and repairs of Government and departmental buildings the vote is \$78,290, as against \$79,314 51, a decrease of \$1,024 51. The public buildings vote is \$240,926, of which \$27,176 is the estimated revote. Last year's vote was \$250,640, a decrease of \$9,714. For public works the estimate is \$34,408, as against \$44,392, a decrease of \$9,984. For colonization roads the vote asked is \$96,920, as against \$104,370 a year ago, a decrease of \$7,450. The charges on crown lands are estimated at \$107,803, as against \$125,309 in 1894, a decrease of \$17,500. The greatest decrease is one of \$15,000 for surveys of townships in new districts. The refund account is estimated at \$24,983 82, as against \$23,314 86 last year, an increase of \$1,668 96. For miscellaneous expenditure the estimate is \$114,092 10, as against \$214,390 50 a year ago, the decrease being \$100,292 40. Election expenses will be \$76,000 less than last year, gratuities \$7,125, the Western Dairy School \$3,500, Columbian Exhibition \$7,500, mining development \$17,000. The final item is \$50,000 for unforeseen and unprovided for expenses, and is the same as last year.

THE YEAR'S RECEIPTS.

In the statement of Provincial assets which was placed before the House yesterday, a valuable summary of the receipts for the year is given. The subsidy was \$1,116,872 80, the specific grant \$80,000, the interest on capital held and debts due by the Dominion to Ontario \$310,020 96, and the interest on investments \$52,791 97. From Crown lands, \$1,057,532 70 was received; from Algoma taxes, \$2,108 62; from law stamps, \$84,097 50; from licenses, \$277,330 14; from the Education Department, \$48,696 57; from public institutions, \$70,375 63; from casual revenue, \$232,094 64, of which \$150,754 04 came from succession duties; from the sale of lands of the Toronto Lunatic Asylum, \$6,000; from a capital expenditure refund at the Mercer Reformatory, \$40; from drainage works assessments, \$12,987 13. This totals \$3,350,948 66, and to this is to be added \$40,661 44 for drainage debentures, \$7,531 71 for drainage debentures tile, and \$54,020 88 for brewers' licenses.