

A single practical suggestion would be worth more than any amount of vague, general, intangible, indefinite, pointless criticism.

Mr. Harcourt then referred to the high expenditure incurred for the printing of reports, pointing out the great number of reports now printed. "I now ask the Printing Committee once more," he said, "so far as possible consistently with plain public advantage, to limit this item of expenditure."

OTHER INCREASES.

Our expenditures under the head of administration of justice in 1895 were abnormally large, I should say unprecedentedly large. We never spent as large a sum for this service in any one year in the history of the Province. We expended in this way \$418,476, and this is \$35,000 more than we spent in 1894, \$73,000 more than we spent in 1893 and \$122,000 more than we spent ten years ago. We paid to the counties \$28,085 more than we did in 1894. We paid to the County of York alone \$3,087 more than we did in 1894, and to the City of Toronto \$5,790 more than in 1894. At the same time, sir, it is only fair to observe that instances have not infrequently occurred in which county treasurers have neglected to send in their accounts and returns promptly, and that in this way the expenditure of a given year is unfairly charged with payments which should have been made the previous year.

Our expenditure last year for education was the largest we have ever incurred as yet in any one year, and the same remark applies to our expenditure under the head of agriculture. We have no differences of opinion in this House as to our duty in promoting these very important interests and in providing for them generously and without stint. One-fifth of all our ordinary expenditure of last year was applied for purposes of education. We must expect that fresh demands will be made upon us from year to year in both these directions.

The Minister of Agriculture has been untiring in his endeavor to extend in all directions the usefulness of his department. During last year, for example, with the sanction of this House he added three new departments to the college at Guelph at an additional expense of \$1,900 a year. I refer to bacteriology, poultry and beekeeping. Each of these departments we all recognized was essential in any well-equipped school of agriculture. The Dairy School at Kingston, established mainly through our grants, had its first session last year, and its second session is now in progress. A similar school in Strathroy is now holding its first session.

In 1894 for the first time we gave a grant for experimental fruit stations, and this grant was repeated last year. Last year also, for the first time, experiments and teaching in the spraying of fruit trees were carried on under the direction of the Minister. Towards the close of 1894 a superintendent of farmers' institutes was appointed, and the result is that the number of institutes has been increased, more meetings have been held, more speakers employed and paid by grants from this Legislature. Early last year the West Algoma Pioneer Farm, situated in the Wabigoon district, of which The Globe newspaper recently gave an interesting account, was established.

These, sir, are some of the additional objects to which, with the sanction of this House, legislative aid has recently been granted. I could easily, sir, instance other new expenditures not only justifiable but demanded by the spirit of progress which has always actuated this Legislature. Our first expenditure in connection with Algonquin Park, situate in northern Ontario, was incurred in 1893. Our total expenditures in connection with it up to the end of last year amount to \$11,901. A year later, viz., in 1894, we established Rondeau Park in western Ontario, and in the last two years its maintenance has cost us \$4,948. A School of Mining and Agriculture, situate at Kingston, in the eastern part of the Province, was first established in 1893, and thus far we have spent towards its maintenance \$22,600. In 1894 and 1895 we spent for mining development, another new item of expenditure, \$9,643. And last year for the first time we had a summer mining school in operation in the northwestern part of the Province at a cost for the year of \$1,329.

These items alone, taken singly, may appear trifling. Taken in the aggregate

they make up a considerable annual charge, viz., about \$50,000, and they illustrate the fact that the various needs of every part of the Province—north, south, east and west—and of whatever kind—agricultural, mining or otherwise—are neither overlooked nor neglected.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

We spent last year for the maintenance of our public institutions within a trifle of \$800,000, or about \$2,190 per day. Nearly one-fourth of all our expenditures went in this one direction. This is more than \$42,000 in excess of the expenditure of the previous year. It is \$11,000 in excess of our estimate. We spent about \$10,000 more by way of maintenance at our new Asylum for the Insane at Brockville than we expected. This institution, hon. gentlemen will remember, was opened only in December, 1894. It cost us for maintenance \$8,120 in 1894, and \$47,863 in 1895. It had under treatment last year 208 patients.

The total number of patients is still year by year increasing. In our seven insane asylums we had last year under treatment 5,454 patients, as against 5,021 in 1894. The number in 1893 was 4,893. This large number of patients was last year distributed as follows:—Toronto, 869; London, 1,180; Kingston, 724; Hamilton, 1,117; Mimico, 730; Brockville, 208; Orillia, 606.

The new insane asylum at Mimico was opened in 1890, and during the last four years its cost of maintenance has averaged nearly \$72,000 a year. This Legislature has honestly and generously attempted to discharge its full duty toward our afflicted classes. But few countries even attempt to do what we have been constantly doing so successfully in this regard. The State of New York is the only State in the Union which supports the insane exclusively in State institutions, and in which their maintenance is arranged for by a general State tax.

In this connection Mr. Harcourt noticed the fear that the increase of inmates of these asylums indicates an increase of insanity, quoted the opinion of Dr. Clouston, Superintendent of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, that the increase simply means that now more people are sent to the asylums, and that when sent there they live longer and are better treated.

Our expenditures for hospitals and charities keep increasing, he went on. During recent years they have been growing at the rapid rate of about \$10,000 a year. We spent upon them in 1894 \$182,692, and in 1895 \$190,221. Last year's payment was the largest we have yet made. The amounts paid depend upon the earnings during the previous year of the various institutions in accordance with the terms of the statute. Last year's increased payment is due to the fact that five new institutions, two hospitals and three homes, had been added to the list. There was also an increase in the number of patients treated as compared with the previous year.

A STEADY REDUCTION.

I need not refer at greater length to our expenditures for the year.

Although we have not neglected or stinted in any way the various interests which it is our duty to subserve, it is worthy, I think, of special mention, and I ask hon. members not to overlook the fact, that during the last five years we have year by year been able to reduce our total expenditures. Our total expenditures in 1891 amounted to \$4,158,459; in 1892, \$4,068,257; in 1893, \$3,907,145; in 1894, \$3,842,505, and in 1895, \$3,758,595. Further, let me add that our total expenditures in 1890 amounted to \$3,896,324, so that last year's total expenditures were lower than those of any year since 1889. It does not affect my argument to say that we spent less money in 1895 than formerly for new public buildings; that we have overtaken our needs in that direction, since, in order to be able thus to reduce our expenditures year by year, we must have constantly exercised vigilant control and practised strictest economy.

In discussing increased expenditures I remind hon. members that it would be both interesting and instructive to institute a comparison and to examine with as much detail as anyone would wish into the increased expenditures on similar lines of, for example, the Dominion itself, or of any of the sister Provinces. The result of such a comparison would, we all know, be extremely favorable to this Province. A similar comparison between Provincial ex-