

the Government. The comparison between the Ontario Agricultural College, said he, was too ridiculous to discuss. The Provincial Government, he would venture to say, had not endeavored to meet the views of the people during the last few years. The Government is in some respects too liberal and too expensive, but they should adopt a vigorous mining policy, and show signs of encouragement to capitalists. Salaries had also increased. In the Crown Lands Department there had been a net increase of about \$6,000.

Hon. Mr. Hardy—Why don't the hon. gentleman give the contingencies, and he would find a reduction of \$5,000 or \$6,000.

Mr. Crawford—I would leave that for some one else to show. I am sure if it can be done some one else will do it. Continuing, he cited other instances of increases in the departments, and concluded by saying that the beef at the Kingston Penitentiary had been purchased at \$1 80 per hundred less than at the public institutions in Toronto.

EFFECTIVE FIGURES.

Hon. Mr. Gibson followed with an exceedingly effective and telling speech, confining himself exclusively to the expenditures upon public institutions, which the Opposition has been attacking so vigorously, and, as Mr. Gibson showed, not always with candor. He first dealt with the statement in parallel columns given out by the leader of the Opposition last session, going to show that various supplies were purchased at a higher rate for the Central Prison than for Kingston Penitentiary. This comparison Mr. Gibson took up and analyzed exhaustively and destructively, showing comparison after comparison to have been misleading. For instance, the price of rice in Kingston had been mentioned in the parallel columns given by Mr. Marter as three and seven-tenths cents per pound, and four to four and one-half and five cents per pound in the Central Prison. But the correct figures, Mr. Gibson said, were that the rice for the use of the prisoners at the Central Prison cost three and seven-eighths cents per pound; that for the officers' table four and one-quarter cents per pound, and that for the hospital five and one-half cents per pound; the great bulk of the rice bought was, of course, for the prisoners. Mr. Marter's figures had been that fourteen cents a gallon was paid for coal oil in the Kingston Penitentiary and from 20 to 25 cents a gallon in the Central Prison; the facts were that at the latter institution ten, twelve and twelve and one-half cents per gallon was paid for coal oil; in some of the other institutions a small quantity of the very best oil was used for lamps that burned far into the night; the best oil had to be used in such cases to avoid danger of fire. Moreover, Mr. Marter had said that flour had cost \$4 13 a barrel in the Kingston Penitentiary and \$4 60 a barrel at the Central Prison. The facts were that the years for these institutions were different, so that on July 1, 1893, the contract was made for the Kingston Penitentiary for flour at \$4 13 a barrel, and in September, 1893, the Central Prison contract was made for the three months left of 1893 and nine months of 1894, for \$3 50 a barrel for the first period and \$2 90 a barrel for the nine months of 1894; the average was \$3 11 a barrel, and Mr. Marter was only \$1 50 a barrel out. Occasionally when a contractor gave flour weaker than the contract called for, some of extra strong quality would be bought to mix with the lower grade flour; but the contractor would be charged with those sums. Mr. Gibson took up specimen after specimen of Mr. Marter's figures and subjected them to the same criticism, challenging him to substantiate his charges in the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. Gibson then discussed the question of per capita cost, pointing out the advantage which the management of the Central Prison enjoys over Kingston Penitentiary, and gave a parallel column of his own, showing such items as coffee, costing 27 cents per pound in Kingston and sixteen cents per pound in the Central Prison. Mr. Gibson then dealt with the charge that the cost of the maintenance of public institutions had increased 40 per cent. since 1876, showing that this charge was a great exaggeration. Mr. Gibson further dealt with Mr. Miscampbell's statement that

\$383,991 had been spent in the five years for furniture and furnishings for public institutions; he showed that this sum included new buildings of various descriptions, that only \$56,058 of this sum referred to actual furniture, and further, that in the period named Brockville Asylum and several cottages at Mimico Asylum had been completed and had to be furnished. Mr. Gibson touched upon a number of other questions effectively, and took his seat after having made a remarkably effective speech.

MR. WHITNEY REPLIES.

Mr. Gibson's speech had extended over recess, and he concluded shortly after the House resumed its sitting. Mr. Whitney rose to reply, and was greeted with applause from the Opposition members. He began by saying it was not possible at once either to affirm or deny the figures that had been quoted by the previous speaker. After expressing the opinion that Hon. Mr. Gibson had alleged that the qualities of the goods purchased by the Ontario Government were better than those purchased by the Dominion Government, Mr. Whitney proceeded to deal with Mr. McLean's speech. Referring to the Wardenship of the Central Prison, Mr. Whitney expressed the opinion that the Government would have liked to have got rid of Mr. Massie many years ago. The Government had appointed in Mr. Noxon a new official, and from the time of his appointment there had, he claimed, been friction between Mr. Massie, on the one hand, and Mr. Noxon on the other, which brought about Mr. Massie's retirement. It was remarkable, considering Mr. McLean's speech, that six Cabinet Ministers had gone to West Wellington to help defeat the Patron candidate. The speech by Mr. McPherson, said he, was a great surprise. It had been alleged in some quarters that the Patrons were in alliance with the Government. He did not know, but Mr. McPherson's speech indicated it. He asked Mr. Haycock to state whether the member for Glangarry (Mr. McPherson) had been authorized by the Patrons to speak as he had done. He then quoted from a speech by Mr. Haycock, in which he said that the farmers were not represented in the Cabinet, but the Government speakers had praised Hon. Mr. Dryden until he had blushed. After having deficits year after year, it would be a difficult matter to induce the people to believe that the Province is prosperous. New methods of taxation, he argued, had to be introduced from time to time to meet the increased expenditure. Referring to the public accounts, Mr. Whitney claimed there was not enough opportunity given to investigate them in committee. The present system was not satisfactory, and had no satisfactory results. Mr. Whitney then quoted a quantity of figures showing a difference from year to year in the expenses at the Central Prison, arguing that they should continue to decrease now as formerly. The cost per head at the Central Prison, he said, was \$166 59, while it was but \$118 82 at the Kingston Penitentiary. One or more new officials had been created every year by the Government. He prophesied that the newly-appointed Commissioner of Highways would go up and down the country and gather political information in every constituency. The Public Schools did not receive enough attention, he claimed, and they should be separate from the High Schools. The Opposition had urged a greater punishment for bribery, but the crime still went on. He urged that imprisonment should be the punishment for bribery. In referring to the election in Kingston Mr. Whitney said, had it been in England, a constituency where corruption was so rampant would be at once disfranchised.

THE PATRON LEADER.

It was past 10 o'clock when Mr. Haycock rose. He first congratulated the Provincial Treasurer on the fair and lucid statement he had given of the finances, and also the leaders of the Opposition for their able criticisms. The demands for reform brought up by the Opposition, he said, were always voted down, and after a reasonable time had elapsed were introduced by the Government, who then took credit for them. He was surprised to hear the Government speak of the prosperous condition of the country, but he anticipated that before long the same gentlemen would go about the country deploring the condition of the people and holding the Ottawa Government responsible. He did not think the members of the Ontario Opposition were