

# THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

## What Our Public Institutions Cost.

### INDIA RELIEF GRANT.

#### Ontario Gives \$6,000 to Famine Sufferers.

Legislative Assembly, Feb. 16.

This was another quiet day in the Legislature. The session did not last more than half an hour, and in that time nothing of importance was done except the unanimous voting of the grant of \$6,000 for the relief of the India famine sufferers and the bringing down of the public accounts. Upon the opening of the House the following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Loughrin—From the Township of Springer, in the district of Nipissing, for an act confirming an issue of debentures amounting to \$3,000.

Mr. Haycock—From the County of Frontenac, for amendments to the registry and general road companies acts.

Mr. Carpenter—From the Council of Norfolk County, for legislation compelling cities to provide market accommodation where fees are charged, and to enable County Councils to offer reward for the apprehension of horse-thieves.

Mr. Hiscott—From Mr. T. F. Best and 158 others of the Town of Niagara, for amendments to the municipal act.

Mr. Biggar—From the County Council of Hastings, for legislation regarding the Victoria Industrial School, the assessment act and the registry act.

Mr. Paton—From the Simcoe County Council, for legislation to prevent the wholesale slaughter of deer and to prohibit the killing of any deer until 1900 in the townships of Flos, Vespra, Sundale and Essa.

Mr. McDonald—From Bruce County Council, praying for an amendment to the assessment act.

Mr. Pardo—From the County of Kent, for legislation compelling cities to provide market accommodation; from the City of Chatham, for an amendment to the municipal act providing that in cities of less than 15,000 inhabitants the qualification of municipal electors be reduced from \$400 to \$200 for freeholders and to \$300 for tenants.

Mr. Bronson—From the Pontiac & Pacific Junction Railway Company, for confirmation of a by-law passed by the City of Ottawa granting the company a bonus of \$150,000 in debentures to aid in the construction of the road between that city and Pembroke.

Mr. Little, from Reeve Small of Adala and 395 others, praying that no action be taken by the Legislature towards annexing the township to the County of Dufferin.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Hiscott—Bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. McLean—Bill to amend the assessment act, bill to amend the marriage act.

Mr. Thomas Gibson (Huron)—Bill to amend the assessment act.

Mr. McKay—Bill to amend the general road companies act, bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Biggar—Bill to amend the Ontario game protection act, 1893, as amended by chapter 68 of 59th Victoria.

Mr. Carnegie—Bill to amend the Public School act.

Mr. Ross introduced bill No. 69, an act setting apart certain wild lands of the Crown for the use of the University of Toronto. The act sets apart six townships, three within the Rainy River district, one of which may be near the Township of Dryden, between the Towns of Port Arthur and Rat Portage, and the other two in the Seine

River district, near the Lake of Woods. The University is to execute a release of all claims upon the Government, and upon that being done the Government is to declare the townships that are set apart.

Mr. Hardy moved the appointment of the following committees:—

To prepare and report with all convenient speed lists of members to compose the select and standing committees ordered by this House, to be composed as follows:—Messrs. Gibson (Hamilton), Dryden, Charlton, Conmee, Ferguson, Haycock, McKay (Oxford), McNichol, Marter, Whitney and Willoughby.

A select committee to act with Mr. Speaker in the control and management of the library, to be composed as follows:—The Attorney-General and Messrs. Harcourt, Ross, Bennett, Caven, Davis, Gibson (Huron), Howland, McKay (Victoria), Matheson, Stratton and Whitney.

#### THE INDIA FAMINE.

Mr. Hardy moved the following resolution:—That this House deeply deplores the terrible ravages by famine and the plague among our fellow-subjects in India, and will cheerfully approve a grant from Provincial funds of the sum of \$6,000, to be forwarded to the proper authorities, to be applied in the purchase of food and otherwise for the relief of the distress now so unhappily prevailing.

Mr. Hardy explained that he had placed this resolution on the paper, not that it was itself a grant, but merely an expression of the wishes of the House in regard to the making of a grant. It did not itself make a grant, but merely expressed the will of the House to relieve somewhat the sufferings of our fellows. If the House assented to the proposition it would be practicable at a very early date to send the aid granted. When plague and famine were carrying off thousands daily it was not a time to wait, they should act promptly. If they should do as he had seen suggested in the newspapers, provide relief from the substance of the country and send it by ship to India, that would take time. The small amount that it was proposed to grant would not freight a ship and the plan would hardly be feasible. In the United States they had chartered a ship, but that would take time and energy and entail expense. He, therefore, asked that the House express its opinion on this grant in order that the regular procedure of the House might be anticipated. The subject of the motion was not a new one, and to prove this Mr. Hardy cited the following payments by the Treasurer of Ontario for relief of distress through fire, famine and floods:—1868, aid to the Nova Scotia fishermen, \$25,000; 1871, aid to sufferers by the Ottawa fire, \$25,000; Saguenay, \$5,000; 1879, aid to distressed settlers in Algoma, \$934; 1880, aid to distressed settlers in Algoma, \$9,449; aid to Ireland, \$20,000; 1881, aid to distressed settlers, Muskoka, \$1,237; 1882, seed grain to the Counties of Ad-dington, Ontario and Renfrew, \$3,550; 1883, aid to sufferers by London floods, \$5,000; to Rat Portage, \$1,000; aid to destitute immigrants, \$700; 1884, aid to destitute immigrants, \$150; 1885, aid to sufferers by the Gravenhurst fire, \$1,000; Newbury fire, \$500; 1892, St. John's fire, \$10,000; 1894, Huntsville, \$1,500; aid to distressed settlers, Rainy River district, \$1,322.

That our fellow-subjects in India were in sore straits was only too notorious. Plague and famine were afflicting a territory populated by eighty-one millions of people. He thought the House could not move too quickly, that they should hasten their steps and that the motion should have the unanimous consent of the House in order that the aid might be given as quickly as possible. He understood that the Governor-General, or rather Mr. Courtney on his behalf, would receive subscriptions for the central relief fund, and to him the money would be sent and would swell the fund that is being raised in all lands to relieve the distressed people of India.

Mr. Whitney cordially agreed as to the propriety of the motion, and, so far as he was personally concerned, entirely agreed with Mr. Hardy when he said that the aid should be sent immediately. Much more good would be done by sending it at once instead of having any delay, which would entail additional expense.