

must be supported, but that very different thing from saying that these institutions could be put on a proper basis for a less expenditure of money than the present. In the ten years in which he had been in the House there had not been a year in which some one had not been foisted on the country. He charged that many unnecessary hands were employed in the Crown Lands Department. We had, for instance, a park in the north, made a park because it was totally unfit for cultivation, and yet the three townships of which it was composed had been surveyed before it was made a park. For years and years these friends of the Government had been living on the country. The Opposition did not find fault with the expenditure for colonization roads, but they objected when the money was spent, not for the benefit of the settlers, but went into the pockets of road bosses. He complained that the Mimico asylum, which was established for the accommodation of incurables, and on that basis could be run more economically, was conducted on the same basis as the others, and so the expense of all was increased. The stationary expenses of the Province, Dr. Meacham said, had been steadily increasing for some years, and to support this statement he went back to 1875, and compared the financial statements of each Parliament, claiming that the Government had spent more than their revenue. It was claimed, they said, that the great expenditures of recent years were due to the erection of public buildings, but the speaker claimed that there was an increase in the last ten years, over and above the cost of public buildings. The Government said that they admitted the increase, but that it was due to the growing needs of the country. If this was so, there would be a steady increase in expenditure. But this was not the case. The Government had cut their coat according to their cloth and had spent their money whenever they had it.

At this point in Dr. Meacham's address an adjournment was made for dinner.

EVENING SESSION.

Upon the resumption of the debate in the evening Dr. Meacham devoted his attention to the Education Department. During the term of office of the present Minister, he stated, the general expenditure of the Province had increased by 47 per cent., while that for education had increased 44 per cent., which he regarded as a very fair and satisfactory condition of affairs. It had been said that we had a system of free schools; that was true in one sense, but in another it was not a free system. He complained that the grants for Public Schools had not increased in the proportion which their importance demanded. The Opposition had been accused of continually changing, but that was not the case. He had himself pointed out a few years ago that the regulations should be so altered as to materially increase the attendance. The attendance in the fifth class had been continually falling off, and he believed that this was due to the fact that the regulations made it the great object of every teacher to pass as many pupils through the entrance examinations as possible, the result being that the teacher's heart was not in the work of the fifth form. What was wanted was that the regulations should be so arranged that the teacher would have as much interest in teaching the fifth form as in teaching the fourth.

The Opposition had secured a reduction of five cents in the cost of drawing books, and a similar reduction was possible with many other text-books, so that \$38,000 saved on the drawing books would be a mere drop compared with the possible saving. The one great grievance among the parents of the country was the continued demand for school books. He criticized the expenditure on the asylums of the Province. The Government at Ottawa had just come into power and were investigating, quite properly, the doings of the late Government, and he believed that if there was a change of Government in Ontario investigation would show such abuses as had never before been revealed in Canada. This remark was made in connection with charges that the administration of the license law was used for partisan purposes. He claimed that two license-holders in his constituency had been refused licenses because they supported him, and could not secure them again until they agreed to support the

Government candidate. Mr. Harcourt asked the doctor to furnish him with the names of these two applicants, but Dr. Meacham would not do so. Mr. Harcourt then asked him to give him the names confidentially and he would have the matter thoroughly investigated, but Dr. Meacham would not agree to do this. He closed his address by claiming that the Opposition had done more to mould public opinion and to secure good laws than any equal number of members on the Government side of the House.

MR. MIDDLETON.

Mr. Middleton, on rising to address the House, said that he was in a somewhat peculiar position, following two doctors—he was in the tombstone line himself. (Laughter.) He defended the succession duties, which were a just form of taxation and went a long way to support the charities aided by the Government. The money spent on the asylums was money well spent, and the farming community realized that the same remark applied to the money spent for the encouragement of agriculture. He predicted for the Hardy Administration a long and prosperous term of office.

Mr. Magwood complained that Mr. Harcourt had shown no new things, he had gone over the old ground. The Government were seeking for some means of securing funds to run the government. The Opposition had for years been telling the Government to be careful or they would run aground and have no means to run the government, but they had said "Pooch, pooch" to these warnings: they had said "Look at the magnificent timber resources of the country." The Agricultural College, he declared, should be run on a more economical plan. In a few years they would have to buy another 100 acres to hold all the heifers who were employed on that farm. Credit was taken for the work being done by the Farmers' Institutes, but the municipalities had to pay one-half of the expense. The educational system, he declared, was run as a political machine in the interests of the supporters of the Government. Again and again the Opposition had asked for increased grants to the rural schools, but little had been done. The continuation classes might be productive of good results. He also complained that the license law was operated for party purposes. The Government should have fewer school and kindred officials and give more to the legitimate services of the country.

At 9.30 o'clock Mr. Craig moved the adjournment of the debate, and upon motion of the Attorney-General the House was adjourned.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Flatt—Bill to amend the registry act of 1893.

Mr. Crawford—Bill to amend the assessment act.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—Bill to amend and revise the act respecting joint stock companies for supplying cities, towns and villages with gas and water. Bill to amend and revise the act respecting joint stock companies for the erection of exhibition buildings. Bill to amend and revise the act respecting joint stock companies for the construction of piers, wharves, dry-docks and harbors.

Mr. Davis—Bill to amend and revise the general road companies act.

Mr. Matheson—Inquiry of Ministry: What were the dates of the orders in Council making the following reductions in drainage assessment:—Tilbury (West), \$9,520.32; Tilbury (East), \$12,863.90; Mersea, \$790.69; Romney, \$249.12.

Mr. Matheson—Bill to amend the County Councils act of 1896.