

Government had to do of the principle of a fair day's wage for a fair day's work. After the resolution had been moved, and endorsed by members on both sides, the Premier expressed his hearty approval of the principle enunciated, and assured the House that the Government would give effect to the resolution. Mr. Whitney then moved an amendment declaring that the opinion of the House be embodied in an act of the Legislature. After the assurance of the Premier as to the Government's willingness to carry out the policy advocated by Mr. Preston, the amendment was manifestly an expression of non-confidence, which the majority could not accept. The Attorney-General therefore moved in amendment to the amendment that the House's opinion was that legislation should be in harmony with the resolution. The resolution as amended by the Attorney-General carried by a majority of nine. The majority was obtained by Mr. Tucker, a Conservative member, voting with the Government.

In answer to Mr. Jamieson (South Grey), the Attorney-General said that Charles O'Malley was employed in detective work on the Niagara frontier. A charge of insubordination was preferred against him by the Chief of Police, and there was an informal inquiry, during which O'Malley was suspended. The result of the inquiry had been the removal of the suspension.

Replying to Mr. Duff (West Simcoe), Hon. Mr. Stratton said that binder twine was being manufactured at the Central Prison, and 1,200 tons would be available for the use of the farmers during the season of 1900. The date at which the output would be sold would be advertised and farmers would be notified to send in their applications. Every facility would be given the farmers for the purchase of twine.

Hon. Mr. Davis informed Mr. Lucas (Centre Grey) that lot 8, concession 6, in the Township of Merritt, 290 acres, on which the Spanish River water power was situated, was patented under the mining act to Hugh Ryan and William Doran on December 11, 1890, for the statutory price of \$2 per acre. There was no reservation of water power or development conditions contained in the patent.

Beet Sugar Industry.

Hon. Mr. Dryden, in answer to Mr. Eoyd (North Grey), said that the Beet Sugar Association of Ontario had voluntarily presented verbal statements with a view to obtaining aid from the Government, and subsequently a statement by letter asking for a bounty of one cent per pound for five years and naming the conditions under which they would operate. The Government would before the end of the session lay before the House such docu-

ments relating to the beet sugar industry as were in its possession.

Wages of Workmen.

Mr. Preston moved:—"That in the opinion of this House all Government contracts should contain such conditions as will prevent abuses which may arise from the subletting of such contracts, and that every effort should be made to secure the payment of such wages as are generally accepted as current in each trade for competent workmen in the district where the work is carried out; and that this House cordially concurs in such policy and deems it the duty of the Government to take immediate steps to give effect thereto; and it is hereby resolved that the work to which the foregoing policy shall apply includes not only work undertaken by the Government itself, but also all works aided by a grant of Provincial public funds, and that the aforesaid policy shall be forthwith applied to every department of the public service and to all parties now performing services for the Government." He said that Ontario occupied a foremost position in regard to labor legislation, but it was necessary that the Province should move if it was to retain that position. It was now time that the principles contained in the resolution were adopted and enforced. The time had come, also, when Ontario should devote more attention to the collection and publication of statistics and other information affecting the labor classes, and when the work should be specialized and placed in charge of some special officer. He was sure the House and the country would receive with satisfaction the announcement that the Commissioner of Public Works, who seemed to have given special attention to social problems, would introduce a bill for the creation of a Bureau of Labor. This resolution had already been in substance before the Dominion House, where no objection was taken to the principle it contained, although the form of the resolution was somewhat criticized. In order to obviate that difficulty here, he had incorporated Mr. Mulock's resolution and the amendment moved by Mr. E. F. Clarke in the Dominion House. The speaker argued that it was in the interest of the community that the workman should receive a fair day's pay, so that he might educate his family and spend his days comfortably.

The Contract System.

He did not intend to preach a crusade against the contract system. That system had its advantages as well as its disadvantages. To a certain extent it was a check upon unfair and extortionate prices, and upon the spread of the spoils system. Among its disadvantages were the temptation to scamp wages and material in order that the contractor might obtain contracts and also increase his profits. When a contract was sublet the tendency to scamp wages and material was increased. The work was expected to yield two or three sets of profits, and hence there was a great temptation to introduce the sweating system, and the condition of things spoken of in the "Song of the Shirt."