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increases are to be found in a vote of \$100,000 toward the construction of the new Science building, to cost \$200,000, for the University of Toronto; a vote of \$86,000 to cover the expenses of elections and election trials; votes for colonization and mining roads of \$146,975, compared with \$119,325 a year ago; public institutions maintenance, \$870,217, compared with \$839,256 in 1901. The public accounts, a brief synopsis of which appeared in yesterday's *Globe*, show that the finances of the Province are in a most satisfactory condition. The receipts for the year were \$4,466,043, and the expenditures \$4,038,834, the figures for 1900 being respectively \$4,192,940 and \$4,003,834. The cash surplus in the banks to the credit of the Government increased by \$434,946, and on Dec. 31, 1901, it was \$1,468,492.

Hon. Mr. Gibson introduced a bill to further amend the devolution of estates act by providing for an extension from one to three years of the time in which heirs become possessed of real estate under a will.

Melancthon School Grant.

Dr. Barr (Dufferin) asked — Has school section No. 7 in the Township of Melancthon, County of Dufferin, received the Government grant for the year 1901? If not, why?

Hon. Mr. Harcourt replied that the reports of the inspectors had not yet been received, but he presumed the

amount had been paid, unless there was some good reason to the contrary.

Insane Asylums Receipts.

Mr. Hoyle (North Ontario) moved for a return showing the amount received from private parties towards the support of their relatives, or otherwise, in the insane asylums of the Province during 1901. He said he was well aware that the public accounts for 1900 showed receipts for the asylums aggregating \$81,951, and he understood that the accounts for 1901 showed an increase of \$12,000 on this, with a corresponding increase of expenditure. If he was correctly informed, the receipts enumerated comprised a large number of items outside of the moneys contributed by private parties. It was desirable to know just how the public institutions were conducted, and the question was asked with that end in view.

Hon. Mr. Stratton promised to bring down the information asked for, and all other information bearing on the subject.

A Question of Privilege.

Mr. Foy (South Toronto), on a question of privilege, said that an evening paper on Saturday last had said:—"Mr. Foy was expected to move the second reading of his bill to amend the assessment act, but was apparently not ready." He explained that he was ready on Wednesday last and had ever since been ready, but was precluded because the rule had been invoked that the bill should be printed by the King's Printer and should appear on the routine as being printed before he was at liberty to proceed.

The Premier—I am glad to see that my hon. friend is beginning to observe the rules of the House. (Laughter.)

The Budget Speech.

Col. Matheson (North Lanark) asked if the postmaster had orders to distribute the public accounts and estimates.

The Premier replied that he had been instructed to do so as soon as they were laid on the table, and, continuing, said that with the permission of the House he would deliver the budget speech on Wednesday.

Col. Matheson thought that there ought to be a longer time between the receiving of the public accounts and the budget speech.

The Premier answered that the speech, like the accounts, would be brief and clear.

Assessment Commission's Report.

Mr. Whitney said it had been rumored that the assessment commission had reported a bill, and he asked if the Premier could say anything in regard to bringing it down.

The Premier answered that no bill had been reported by the assessment commission, and one was not expected. This week or early next week the assessment commission's final report would be brought down, but there would be no bill on the particular phase of the assessment question which had occupied the attention of the House a few days ago. A Government bill on the assessment question as a whole would be brought down.

The House adjourned at 3.30.