

his opposition to the principle of buying coal by tender for the institutions, and said that if he had his own way he would not buy a pound of coal in that way. To ask for tenders was practically to invite the coal dealers to combine against the Province by agreeing upon the price they will ask.

#### A Profitable Farm.

Col. Matheson (South Lanark) said he found on reference to the public accounts that on the farm at the London Asylum the receipts were \$18,000 and the expenditures \$8,000, a profit of \$10,000. He suggested that Mr. Stratton would make a good Minister of Agriculture. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Stratton said the difference between the London farm and the farm at Guelph was that the former was a practical and the latter an experimental farm. (Laughter.)

Referring to the cost of water at the Toronto institutions, Mr. Stratton said that other consumers who used one-half the quantity used by the asylum got it at much less cost than the Province. He expressed the belief that with the erection of a number more Houses of Refuge in the Province the pressure on the asylums would be relieved to such an extent that the present accommodation would be sufficient for a number of years to come.

#### Central Prison Twine.

Under the estimates for the Central Prison Col. Matheson asked if American binder twine was not brought in and sold under the prison mark.

Hon. Mr. Stratton said the contractor was bound to sell the twine he made to the farmers at a certain price, and if he did not make enough he had to supply twine of a certain quality to every applicant, wherever he got it. He was quite certain that the Central Prison factory fixed the price of binder twine in the Province last year, which was shown by the immediate reduction by the manufacturers when the Prison prices were made public.

Mr. Kidd (Carleton) said the complaint frequently heard against prison twine was that the convicts were careless in their work, and did not take the trouble to unite ends which became disconnected.

#### Boys' Reformatory.

Mr. Thompson (Centre Simcoe), on the item of \$25,752 for the Penetanguishene Reformatory, asked if it was still the intention of the Government to remove the reformatory to Oxford County.

Hon. Mr. Stratton replied in the affirmative. It was likely that the building would not be closed. The Government was contemplating an institution for epileptics and would probably remove some patients to Penetanguishene, so as to make room in some of the institutions for epileptics.

The item of \$26,075 for the Mercer Reformatory and Refuge for Girls was carried, after Hon. Mr. Stratton had explained that the part of the building used as a refuge was in need of extensive repairs, and he hoped that next year the House might vote \$10,000 for

the purpose. An item of \$750 for the care of the old Parliament buildings, in the estimates of \$49,040 for Parliament and departmental buildings, drew from Col. Matheson the remark that the old buildings should be burned down.

Other estimates passed were:—\$1,887,755 for hospitals and charities; maintenance and repairs of public buildings, asylums, \$7,707; Mimico, \$6,325; London, \$23,295; Hamilton, \$6,260; Kingston, \$10,000; Brockville, \$5,955; Cobourg, \$19,450; Orillia \$7,600.

The House adjourned at 10.10 p.m.

A deputation representing the hospitals of the Province will wait on the Government to-day and ask for increased aid to hospitals.

*February 18/02*