

patients disposed of in the Provincial institutions, which the working of the bill would obviate. The total amount to be charged against the \$165,000 to be credited to the municipalities would not be above half that sum, and there would thus be an amount coming to the municipalities of from \$75,000 to \$100,000. The heads of the asylums, at the instigation of the department, had considered the matter, and very strongly recommended the course taken.

To Square Themselves.

Hon. Mr. Ross thought the bill was a confession that the Province was no longer prepared to support the asylums.

Hon. Mr. Hanna—Not at all.

Hon. Mr. Ross said he did not like such a confession. To some extent the municipalities ought to share the burden. But the motive of the bill was to square the Government with their past promises, that the greater part of the railway taxation should go to the municipalities. It was an absurd thing to feed out eight cents a head to the municipalities and take back ten cents a day immediately after. They might take less from them than they got or they might take more.

Hon. Mr. Hanna—The bill provides that no more shall be taken than the amount of the allowance.

Hon. Mr. Ross, continuing, submitted that if no more was to be taken, then it was absurd to pay it over at all. There was to be a staff of clerks on which \$30,000 was to be spent. It was not shown how much of this sum was to go to the clerks and how much to the Railway Board. He thought it was merely a plan to increase Government patronage, and he objected to the bill as circuitous, expensive, uncalled for, and serving no useful purpose. The Government had placed themselves in an absurd and defenceless position.

Denies Accepting Pettypiece Bill.

Premier Whitney was happy to see how his hon. friend galloped around in his new pasture, but there had not been one word said as to the amount of tax levied. Mr. Graham had said it made no difference, as the money went back to the people anyway. It did go back now, and that was the difference in the present situation. The Government had been trying all this time to square themselves with the people, and he was delighted to know that they were succeeding in squaring their actions with their promises. Not a week passed that Liberals more prominent than the hon. member told the Government that the Conservatives were entirely successful in their administration. A Liberal of lineage had declared recently that it stirred up the choler of his youth to hear Hon. Geo. W. Ross and Hon. Richard Harcourt suggest that the Government should follow in their footsteps. Premier Whitney denied that the Pettypiece bill had been adopted by the Conservative party. He had declared he was ready to vote for the second reading of the Pettypiece bill because it embodied a principle, but he protested against a meaning being placed on his language entirely foreign to it.

Government Accepts Liberal Principle.

Mr. Harcourt contended that the subventions given the railways in early days entailed a return in taxation in later times, and the present bill was an acceptance of the whole Liberal scheme of taxation. He gave the Government credit for taking the step they had, but the Government had misunderstood Opposition criticism. The circumlocution of the bill violated the principle of simplicity which should be sought in legislation. If they could devote the money to charitable purposes without heavy deductions for expenses the method should be adopted. He supposed there would be ten per cent. expenses involved.

Hon. Mr. Matheson said \$1,000 would cover the clerical expense. The Railway Commission was to be supported out of the \$30,000, and no more would be spent than was required.

Mr. Harcourt did not understand how the business of the House could be carried on if they could not rely upon the records of the House. The Premier

and the Treasurer had voted for the whole of the Pettypiece bill.

Premier Whitney asked if Mr. Harcourt denied that he, the Premier, had made the statement regarding the Pettypiece bill to which he had alluded.

Mr. Harcourt said he would not question the word of any member of the House. It was not Parliamentary to do so. He was glad to know that the revenue from railways was to be increased.

Mr. Preston (Brant) pointed out that it was not on the second reading, but in committee, that the vote was taken on the instruction to adopt the Pettypiece bill in its entirety, in which Premier Whitney and his colleagues had concurred.

Mr. Clark Pleads Guilty.

Mr. Clark (Centre Bruce) pleaded guilty to every count in the indictment. He had been just as anxious to make Mr. Pettypiece vote for his own bill as Mr. Preston was anxious to prevent him. There had been a ghastly affectation of determination on Mr. Pettypiece's part to press his bill, but it had been sufficient to scare the late Government.

In a most amusing speech Mr. Clark related the taking off of the Pettypiece bill. He had endeavored, he said, to have it recommitted to Committee of the Whole.

The House adjourned at 5.55.

Notices of Motion.

The following notices of motions were given:—Mr. Smith (Peel)—An act for the settlement of boundary lines in double front concessions.

Mr. Clark (Bruce) asks: Has the attention of the Government been directed to the announcement that the Insurance Commission will not sit in Ottawa to complete the investigation of the insurance department, and that counsel appointed by the Ontario Government has not been afforded an opportunity to examine the superintendent of insurance and his assistants? Is it the intention of the Government to make such representations as will secure for counsel for the policyholders an opportunity to carry out the work for which he was retained?