

vigorous explanation of the Government's position, that "round robins" had nothing whatever to do with the decision to recognize the claims of the members to a larger indemnity.

The sessional indemnity becomes \$1,400, and the Prime Minister intimated that some provision would have to be made to reach the members who are frequently absent from the House.

#### A Ten-million Expenditure.

The supplementary estimates added \$2,659,042 to the main estimates brought down last session. The total estimated expenditure for the year is \$10,282,787, of which \$7,637,887 is on current account, and \$2,644,900 on capital account. Of the supplementary estimates tabled yesterday all but a small proportion is on capital account. Niagara power transmission lines, including additional extensions to Tillsonburg, Weston, Port Credit, Brampton, Seaforth, Ontario Agricultural College, and the London and Hamilton asylums are represented by an item of \$1,100,000, making \$1,300,000 of an expenditure on the Niagara power transmission system. A grant of \$30,000 is provided for the Port Arthur station and transmission line.

#### A New Veterinary College.

The building of a new Veterinary College for the Province is foreshadowed by the appropriation of \$25,000 for the purchase of a site. The present college is under lease, which expires in about a year. The Government is planning to expend approximately \$120,000 upon the new college building. Another interesting appropriation is one of \$35,000 for additional buildings and farm lands at the Brockville Hospital for the Insane. The hospitals for the insane at Hamilton, London, Mimico and Guelph are given grants for the installation of hydro-electric light and power.

The completion of the west wing of the Parliament buildings and the new north wing is provided for. For the reconstruction of the western wing an additional \$300,000, in addition to the \$100,000 voted last session, is provided, while the new library, or northern wing, receives an appropriation of \$170,000. The new Government House receives \$50,000, making \$150,000 so far provided.

An additional \$102,100 is appropriated for the Provincial Reformatory at Guelph, bringing the total for the year to \$150,000.

#### More Agricultural Instructors.

Under the heading of "Technical Education" comes an item of \$6,000 to provide for the appointment of five more agricultural instructors. Provision is also made for special industrial and agricultural education by an appropriation of \$5,000.

The success which attended the policy instituted by the Government last session of assisting settlers to Ontario by advancing passage money is responsible for an increased vote of \$20,000.

The reported agitation conducted by the staff of the Ontario Agricultural College some time ago for an increase in salary is recognized by the Government by way of increases to nearly all the professors and lecturers, the advance ranging from \$100 to \$200. They will involve an annual addition to the expenditure on the college of \$2,500.

A stricter enforcement of the liquor license act in local option municipalities, for which the temperance forces have been importuning the Government, is indicated by an additional grant of \$5,000.

The list of salary increases to the officials of the Civil Service is a long one. The most important increases are to the Deputy Ministers in the Educational, Public Works, Treasury and Provincial Secretary's Departments, who secure advances of \$250, bringing them to \$3,500.

The supplementary estimates contain no reference to colonization roads or public works, which will be provided for by further supplementary estimates later in the session.

#### No "Round Robin."

Sir James Whitney, in announcing the increase of the indemnity, declar-

ed that the Government was taking upon itself the burden of the responsibility for the introduction of a bill to that effect.

"There has been," said Sir James, "no bargaining, no round robin, relating to what took place last session. We all know that on occasions such as this wrong ideas get abroad, and this case is no exception. Last year there was nothing in the shape of bargaining or a round robin. The Government assumes the responsibility entirely by itself.

#### Living Expenses Higher.

"We propose," continued the Premier, "to increase the indemnity. Owing to changes in the conditions which surround the living of everybody in this country, the time has come when it is proper to increase the indemnity. We did so with regard to the Ministers of the Crown, and also with regard to a great many of the civil servants, and we don't propose to go slowly with this until we have gone as far as we can to place the civil servants of the Province on a fair living salary.

#### Charge Ministers for Absences.

"I think," added the Premier, "that it will be advisable to provide that a member who is absent beyond a certain number of days should be charged so much per day of his absence, just as they do at Ottawa. Of course that does not preclude the possibility in the case of a member being afflicted with a serious illness of the House voting him the whole indemnity. But I think we owe it to ourselves, to our self-respect, to provide certain rules under which the indemnity shall be paid. When the estimates come before the House for consideration we will deal with this matter, and any discussion may take place then. The amount of the indemnity is \$1,400 per annum."

#### An Important Consolidation.

Before the estimates were introduced, Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary, gave notice of a bill to amend the consolidated municipal act, 1903, with respect to local improvements. In doing so Mr. Hanna called the attention of the House to the fact that it is altogether more than a consolidation, being an attempt, on which very considerable work has been put, to get together under one set of principles the local improvement sections of the municipal act. The bill as printed, he said, had in italics from section to section indicated what the changes were. He bespoke the best care on the part of the members that they could give to the bill, even at the expense of delaying its passage.

#### Mr. McDougal Approves.

Mr. D. J. McDougal (East Ottawa) congratulated the Minister on the announcement he had just made that he had so clearly indicated all the changes in the bill. "I have," said Mr. McDougal, "called the matter to the attention of the Attorney-General, but he has not seen his way yet to adopt the same method. I am glad the Provincial Secretary has done it, and sorry that the Attorney-General does not see the advisability of indicating the changes in the bills emanating from his department, which are likewise very important."

Mr. A. E. Donovan, Brockville, gave notice of a bill to amend the municipal act, in which the chief change is the placing of the elections in December. Mr. Donovan thinks this would obviate a great deal of inconvenience caused by the holding of them at New Year's.

#### Extend Rural School Holidays.

Mr. P. H. Bowyer, East Kent, gave notice of a bill to amend the public schools act, his object being to lengthen the holidays in rural schools to be of the same length as those in towns and cities. Some years ago the children in rural sections used to lose so much time on account of bad roads that it was deemed necessary, in order to give them a chance to get along fast enough in their studies, to cut short the summer holidays to six weeks. Now, Mr. Bowyer says, this is not necessary, and the children should have the same length of vacation as those in urban communities. A dozen statute revision bills were given second readings.