

might be different. This property is going to decrease in value.

More Expensive Than the War.

"In the main estimates for this year we have \$100,000; now we are asked to vote \$200,000. Together that is more than the Province contributed last year to aid the Empire and the Belgians. It is a time to waste no further money on this institution," declared Mr. Rowell.

"What would you do with it?" asked Hon. G. Howard Ferguson.

"I would scrap the whole business. We would be hundreds of thousands of dollars ultimately in pocket if we wiped it out and put up a decent, suitable building costing, say, \$250,000. The annual cost of maintaining this building capitalized will amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars."

No Good to the People.

Following Mr. Rowell, one Liberal member after another rose and directed shafts of criticism against the project. Mr. S. Carter (South Wellington) declared: "It would be a good thing to stop and sell it for what it is worth. The mass of the people of the Province will have no opportunity in any shape or form of getting any advantage out of the place."

"I do not think I would be true to the riding I represent if I did not protest against this," said Mr. Wm. McDonald (North Bruce). "In North Bruce Conservatives are just as strongly opposed to it as Liberals."

Wasteful Accessories.

Mr. Thos. Marshall (Lincoln) remarked that the silence of the Government benches was eloquent. A serious crime had been committed against the finances of the Province. He was sure the Government would not do the same if it had the opportunity again. He could not understand why \$50,000 was necessary for a ventilating plant. "Surely the family of the Lieutenant-Governor does not

need to have the air of the House specially treated." It was strange, too, that the sewage had to be pumped up to the street; in most cases it generally ran down the street. (Laughter.)

Mr. Donovan's Defence.

At this point Mr. Donovan took pity on the situation and said in reply that the expenditure on Government House had been talked in every constituency on the last election, with the result they all knew. He then went on to argue that there was an implied trust with the Dominion, under which the proceeds from the sale of the old Government House property should be applied for a new plant. All talk about the high cost of maintenance was absurd, and when the time came to appoint a new Lieutenant-Governor there would be lots of men tumbling over each other for the position.

Challenged as to the authority for his statement, Mr. Donovan referred to a bill passed in 1897.

Defied the Statute.

Mr. Rowell quickly took up the discussion. Referring to the legislation quoted, he showed that Mr. Donovan had only read half of the provision. Reading the clauses, he accomplished the discomfiture of the member for Brockville by proving that the act expressly stated that a sufficient portion of the proceeds from the sale of Government House property should be set aside to constitute a fund, the interest on which should provide for the maintenance, furnishing and repair of new Government House buildings and property, and it went on further to say that "no other sums shall be appropriated by the Legislature annually for the maintenance or support of Government House."

Government Saved Its Face.

This bill, Mr. Rowell continued with elation, was passed by the Legislature, and was based on a report of a special committee appointed to consider the advisability of continuing Government House at the expense of the Province, and on that committee the late Sir James Whitney and Mr. G. F. Marter both sat. That was at a time when the old Government House property was worth but a fraction of what it had been sold for. He had just discovered that the act had been repealed by a clause in the statute law amendment act of 1913, which certainly would never have gone through without a protest

had his attention been directed to it. But here on the statute books at the time was a restrictive act passed by the Legislature, and in defiance of its provisions the Government had gone to work on an enterprise that had wiped out entirely the amount received from the sale of old Government House, and to save its face the act had to be repealed.

The Farmers' "Pride."

Mr. John Grieve (South Essex) replied to a remark by Mr. Donovan that the farmers of Ontario would be glad to point out the place to their children. "I would like to see a farmer who would point with pride to that house."

Mr. Scott Davidson (North Brant) contended that 50 per cent. of the people were against this extravagant expenditure.

Mr. Nelson Parliament (Prince Edward), in the face of this policy, thought he saw the thin end of the wedge for direct taxation in Ontario.

Mr. Z. Mageau (Sturgeon Falls) advised selling the place at once. The first loss would be the worst.

Fish for Institutions.

Referring to the proposal to equip a cold-storage plant for supplying the public institutions with fish all the year around, Mr. Macdiarmid said it was still under consideration. Reports had been received, but nothing so far done.

In answer to Mr. Rowell with reference to \$25,000 for additional cottages at the Hospital for Feeble-minded, Orillia, Hon. Mr. Hanna stated the number of patients was now 800. With the proposed new construction, space would be provided for about 400 additional. He did not think the increased applications which had been received meant a substantially higher percentage of defectives in the Province. He was of the opinion these increased applications were due largely to the change of attitude, not only of the community, but of the people interested, who realized that the safer and better place for those children was in such institutions.

Companies' Liability.

Mr. A. B. Thompson (Centre Simcoe) introduced a bill to provide that in cases where workmen are employed by companies that insure against liability with an accident insurance company, the workmen, if injured, can make a claim on the liability company. This is to protect against a circumstance where the employer goes into liquidation following the accident, and the liability company refusing to pay on the ground that the concern is no longer in existence.

Mr. George Sulman (West Kent) seeks an amendment to the municipal franchise act to enable natural gas companies to supply farmers whose property is removed from the highway along which the pipes are laid. The law at present prevents the company supplying gas off the main road to those living on the concession lines.