

## **Government House Costly.**

The member for West Bruce then went on to score the expenditure on Government House, declaring that notwithstanding the solemn assurance given the Legislature that it was estimated Government House would not cost over \$400,000 the figure had reached \$1,083,000. He was confident that expenditure of this kind would not commend itself to the people of the Province.

With reference to operating Government House during the last year he found that under the heading of repairs and maintenance there was a sum of \$57,759. That showed what an absurd and foolish thing it was for the Province to build a residence of this kind costing over a million dollars, and which cost, according to items appearing in the public accounts, \$57,759 for repairs and maintenance.

## **Public Buildings**

### **Exceed Estimates**

Hon. Mr. McGarry said there were items that belonged to the year 1914-15, but had come in after the Public Accounts that year.

Mr. Bowman replied that there was nothing to show on the face of the Public Accounts that these items were not in connection with the year 1915-16, and if the Provincial Treasurer or his department had not the capacity to place items intelligently before the House, surely those on the Liberal side were not to be censured. The Liberal Whip also declared that expenditure on Guelph Prison Farm had exceeded by \$535,000 the estimate given by Mr. Armstrong before the Public Accounts Committee in 1914, and the estimates on the Whitby Asylum work had also been largely exceeded.

The member for West Bruce renewed the objection to the amendment to the audit act, as a result of which the preparation of certain statements were taken out of the hands of the Auditor and left to the Treasury Board.

### **Exceeding the Estimates.**

Mr. Bowman pointed out that according to the Public Accounts the Provincial Treasurer commenced the year with \$4,493,353 on hand, and at the end of the year the balance on hand was \$4,162,002, showing \$331,350 less than when the Treasurer commenced the year. On Government House, the Guelph Prison Farm and the Whitby Asylum the total over-expenditure as compared with the estimates which they had laid before the House amounted to \$1,800,000.

### **Approves Big Expenditures.**

Mr. A. E. Donovan said it was all right that this Province should have one of the grandest Government Houses on the continent of America. He also declared the people liked a spending Government if the Government spent the money judiciously and properly in the interests of the people.

### **Wants More Meekness.**

Referring to the temperance question, Mr. Ham of South Brant said he detected in the speeches made on the Government side a claim for a little more credit than what the circumstances in connection with the carrying of that law would warrant. It seemed to him that a little more modesty and a little more meekness on their part would have been more in harmony with all the facts of the history of that movement.