

election, who has a ranch in the district. Mr. Macdiarmid asked Mr. Mageau if he persisted in making that charge.

Mr. Mageau—I do.

Candidate's Reply.

Mr. Macdiarmid—I have a letter here from Mr. Martin, the Conservative candidate at the last election, and he says not a dollar was spent on the road on this side of his home. The money was spent entirely north or beyond his home, in the township of Field. (Conservative applause.) The statement of Mr. Martin was verified to-day by Senator Gordon.

Mr. Mageau—The statement is untrue. I do not say the hon. Minister is not telling the truth, but the statement made to him by Mr. Martin is untrue.

Colin Cameron (North Bay)—Who are we to believe—those two gentlemen or you?

Ventilate in Committee.

Mr. Macdiarmid—Mr. Martin, in his letter, says the road is three miles beyond his place, and the letter will be available for your inspection before the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. Cameron—Now you will have the privilege of swearing to it.

Mr. Macdiarmid—This is a mail route, the road in question.

Mr. Mageau—That is again wrong. It is not a mail route. The mail goes by the C. N. R. The road serves only the ranch of the Conservative candidate at the last election, and does not benefit the other settlers.

"No instructions have been given to favor one political party or another," said Mr. Macdiarmid. "The only instructions given are to get the best results for the money expended." (Conservative applause.)

Mr. Mageau's amendment, which was defeated by 46 to 17, condemned "the deplorable waste and misuse of the public funds of the Province, arising out of the present system of expending the moneys voted for colonization roads," and asked that the moneys for such roads in organized townships be expended by the municipalities, and in unorganized townships under public tender.

WANTS TO HAVE LIGHT ON ONTARIO FINANCES

Ottawa Member Would Like to
Make Some Comparisons

WHAT IS NET DEBT NOW?

Provincial Treasurer Insists on Giving
Assets as Well, Which Causes
Amusement—Improving Actuarial
Solvency of Fraternal Societies.

Mr. J. A. Pinard (Ottawa) wanted some information, in the Legislature yesterday, as to the net debt of the Province compared with what it was at the time the Liberal Administration went out of office. He did not believe that the finances were in so fine a state as the Provincial Treasurer had tried to make out. When affairs were handed over by the old Administration to the Conservatives the finances of the Province were in a better position than they are to-day.

Hon. Mr. McGarry held that it was only fair that the honorable member should also ask for the assets of the Province. He suggested that the question be changed to include the assets.

Mr. Pinard, amid laughter, said if the Minister was not satisfied to answer the question before the House he could keep his answer. Later he would perhaps question the Provincial Treasurer on more than he (the Minister) thought.

Hon. Mr. McGarry—The motion

ought to be changed to include the assets of the Province.

Mr. Pinard—I want what the motion says.

To Give Assets With Debt.

Hon. Mr. McGarry—I will bring down what the assets are as well as what the honorable member asks.

Mr. Pinard—If the Minister desires to give us more than he is asked for, it is all right. He can do what he likes. (Laughter.)

The bill of Mr. E. W. J. Owens (Southeast Toronto), which provides for an amendment of the constitution and laws where a society is found to be on an unsound actuarial basis, was referred to a special committee to be named. The bill in effect provided that the executive or board of a society should have the power from time to time to amend, by resolutions adopted by a majority vote of the committee or board, the constitution and laws of any such society as may be deemed necessary for the purpose of improving the actuarial solvency of such society, and all such amendments, when approved by the registrar, shall be binding and obligatory upon all members of the society.

Mr. Owens Premature.

Hon. Mr. Lucas said the act as it now stands demands that these societies when they have the information before them will voluntarily take action to make the societies solvent or prevent them from becoming insolvent. The bill of the member for Southeast Toronto was probably premature in endeavoring to force action upon the societies in any way at present. They should wait until the information was before the societies.

Answering Mr. Rowell, the Attorney-General said the valuation would not be made until the end of this year, and neither the Government nor the societies had the information which would justify action.

The McCutcheon Trial.

Mr. Proudfoot was informed that the cost of the trial of McCutcheon Brothers at Toronto was \$8,246. Of this Gordon Shaver got \$1,800, N. F. Davidson, K.C., \$4,000, and H. Goodman, \$1,724.

Hon. T. W. McGarry to Mr. Chas. M. Bowman, that the machine guns acquired at an expenditure of \$500,000 by the Province from the Savage Arms Company of Utica, N.Y., and sent overseas, had not been inspected on behalf of the Ontario Government, but an inspection had been made on behalf of the Dominion Government, through which the money contributed by the Province had gone. The Inspecting Officer was Capt. J. H. Holliday, who was assisted by other capable and experienced inspectors. All guns were inspected before leaving the factory at Utica.

Mr. J. A. Armstrong's Status.

Hon. W. D. McPherson informed Mr. Ferguson of Kent that Samuel A. Armstrong, former Assistant Provincial Secretary, and now Director of Military Hospitals, had on January 1 last been given three months' leave of absence. He remains in the pay of the Provincial Government until March 31. The salary Mr. Armstrong is receiving from the Military Hospitals Commission is \$7,560 a year.