

ernor acceded to their request at that date, that all monies voted by the Parliament of Canada should be expended through the Assembly instead of through the Lieutenant Governor as therefore with the exception of that portion which was purely for the Lieutenant Governor's office. Mr. Haultain in that session brought down the estimates which amounted to \$105,000, and everything smoothly for the time being. But in 1889 a difficulty arose in respect of the supply bill. His Honour while acceding to the supply bill of 1888 did not during the recess between 1888 and 1889, at all times take cognizance of the recommendations of his council, and endeavored in a sense to expend those monies as he had done theretofore, without the recommendation of the council. They would recollect—those who were in the country at the time would recollect—that difficulties occurred which resulted in his honor's friend Mr. Haultain seeing good reasons for putting in his resignation. This brought on what we know as the fight for responsible government in these Territories, and which was started in 1889. In that year the Lieut.-Governor saw fit to call certain other four gentlemen who had intimated their willingness to undertake the responsibilities of office. They would all recollect the struggle that took place. Those hon. gentlemen presumed to expend the public money without the advice and without the confidence of the Assembly—or rather those monies, presuming that they might give him advice, although they had not the support or the confidence of the Assembly. Well, the fight went on until 1890, and in 1890 the Legislative Assembly was put in a position by the Parliament of Canada to extend the public money the way they had contended for. The amounts at the disposal of the Assembly from that date to the present were as follows:—

1882-3, \$195,700; 1883-4, \$199,200; 1884-5, \$225,000; 1885-6, \$267,000. Now, in 1885 the vote included a sum which was put in the Estimates at Ottawa for the purposes of relief. This was the sum which had been brought to the attention of the House by the hon. member for West Prince Albert (Mr. McKay). In that year the sum of \$25,000 was placed in the Estimates for relief expenditure. In 1886-7 they received the sum of \$242,879; in 1887-8 they had an increase of \$40,000, making an appropriation of \$282,979. He might say that during this time the local revenues had increased. They were receiving during the most of those years, owing to the introduction of the Liquor License Ordinance, an amount of from \$22,000 to \$25,000, and up to \$30,000. The House would realize that during the time there had been an Assembly they had not at any time received any great increase in the grants that were given them from Ottawa in lieu of a subsidy. The increases had been very gradual—he might say, too gradual altogether and much too meager to adequately meet the real requirements of the country.

THE PRESENT POSITION.
To-day they were in this position. They had \$282,070 as a Parliamentary grant from Ottawa. That was to say, that was the amount of the grant last year, and they had every reason to believe at least that the grant this year would not be less, while they had good grounds for hoping that it would be increased this year. It was rather an unfortunate thing in one way that the Assembly was meeting at this particular time. The Executive had seen fit during recess, to do what they conceived to be their duty towards the country by asking for an increase not only in the grants but in the powers of the Assembly. They had asked for the administration of criminal justice and together with it the handing over of the grant expended from Ottawa for it. They had asked for a grant to legislate on the subjects brought to the attention of the House by the hon. member for Yorkton. These subjects which were affected by land titles registration. They had asked in all for the sum of \$355,000 from the Dominion Government for the services the North-West Government now had to undertake. The sum did not take into account the services which would accrue if the extra powers asked for were granted. As he had said, they were in rather an unfortunate position, in this way, they had had no answer to the letter in which they made the claims mentioned, and of course the only satisfactory answer they could have to that letter addressed to the Dominion Government through the Minister of the Interior was by legislation giving them the additional legislative powers, and by a parliamentary vote of the supply bill giving them the increased grant asked for in that communication. He repeated that they had every reason to suppose that they would get an increase in the grant, but what that increase would be it was very hard to say. One thing, however, was clear—if the increase was along the line of the increase of recent years, it would not be very large. However, he hoped it would be more substantial; still, until Parliament had pronounced upon it, it was impossible for them to estimate upon any definite sum.

PEACE RIVER TRAIL.

They had in hand at the beginning of the financial year the sum of \$71,745. They also had an order in Council grant to accredit to the Territories of \$10,000 for the clearing and improving of the road from Edmonton to Peace River, and opening a pack trail thence to the Nelson River. He might explain in passing, in reference to this item, that it was simply passing through the Territorial accounts. The Dominion Government had seen fit to expend through the Territorial Department of Public Works the sum of \$10,000, for the completion of the road in the hands of the Public Works Department of the Territories other than it themselves. He thought some credit was due to the Department here in the fact, because it showed that the Department at Ottawa in placing the work in their hands must have felt that they had a good and sufficient guarantee that the work would be well done.

LOCAL REVENUE.

Mr. Ross went on to deal with the financial revenue in detail. Taking the local revenue into consideration he said it was estimated that this revenue from the local roads would amount to \$49,400 made up as follows: Auctioneer's license, \$400; billiards, \$60; school examination fees, \$600; ferries, \$100; fines, \$3,000; clerks of court, \$350; companies, \$300; liquor licenses, \$3,000; marriage licenses, \$1,200; notaries, \$100; pedlers, \$400; private bills, \$300; sale of Ordinances, \$1,000; gazette, \$300; game licenses, \$2,500; coal mines, \$50; brand fees, \$2,000; refund from Ottawa in respect of repairs, \$1,200; interest, \$4,500—total, \$49,400. Mr. Ross explained that the item for permits was in respect of permits which might be issued for the unorganized territory; and the refund for repairs

from Ottawa was in respect of the government buildings. The federal government was called upon until such time as we were formed into a province to provide buildings for carrying on the government of the Territories. They would all agree with him that the buildings were not what they should be. They were not adequate for the requirements of the Territories, but they were as they were, and from year to year the local government had to repair them, and the Dominion government refunded the amount.

With regard to the item of \$4,500, Mr. Ross said that sum was expected to be added as interest on monies to their credit in the bank. The government had obtained an agreement to draw three per cent interest on current open account, not deposit account—and the sum of \$4,500 was put in as a fair estimate, which was exorbitant when compared with the value of the work expected. The provision for doing away with the district engineers had been appointed of a resident engineer and surveyor world, he thought, work out greatly to the advantage of the Department. During the summer months there would be available for the location of public works and the inspection of the larger works, and in the winter months, filing plans of bridges and so on, and surveys, and having them properly recorded. It might be said that if they had to pay the travelling expenses of these men to different parts of this large territory, it would still be a very expensive system. This was to a certain extent true. Feeling this to be the case he had made it his business to interview the C.P.R. authorities, and he was happy to say that he had been successful in persuading them that it was in their interest, as well as in that of the company that the company should grant free transportation to these gentlemen when engaged in this service. Free transportation having been thus secured, if anything happened requiring their attendance in the most distant part of the Territories, as far as expense was concerned it would be in the same position as the nearest, with the exception of the time occupied in getting there. Another thing he might mention was that they found the system of having a number of engineers entailed a good deal of office work and correspondence, because little difficulties and differences of opinion arose at every turn. Under the new system this would be reduced to a minimum; the expense would be lessened, and uniformity would be secured. He was quite satisfied that if there were any members of the House who were not prepared to give the change their approval at present, at the end of a year it would meet with the approval of the majority.

Another subject taken up was the encouragement of the importation of pure-bred stock (\$1,500). This was a matter of great importance, although it was one which did not entail a great expenditure of money. It might be said that with the class of cases the hospitals were dealing with were fit and proper cases within the objects of the grant—but in future it would be the duty of the Department of Agriculture to see that the regulations were strictly enforced and that the full benefits accrued to the people of the Territories for the comparatively large amount of public money which was being expended in support of hospitals.

Another subject taken up was the encouragement of the importation of pure-bred stock (\$1,500). This was a matter of great importance, although it was one which did not entail a great expenditure of money.

Now, he said, the public service demanded it, the Executive Council prepared to come down to that House prepared to face the criticism of having made that expenditure rather than to face criticism for having neglected to make that expenditure to the detriment of the public service. That was the position they took, and were prepared to take.

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT.—THE NEW MEMBER.

Mr. Ross then went through the Estimates item by item, making explanations where called for. On the first item, \$1,500, being provision for members of the Council—three at \$2,500 per annum—he said he did not intend to say a great deal in regard to that item. Every member of the House knew full well the duties of the members of the Government. He did not wish to emphasize it too much, but members of the House were also aware that the Executive gave the whole of the salary of the clerk in charge of the local improvement branch. This was a very important branch comprising 150 or 160 local improvement districts, and it was entirely under that gentleman's supervision and control. It was necessary for the clerk in charge to keep in constant communication with those districts. He had to forward them all forms for assessment, all books required, all forms for the return of unpaid taxes and he had at the same time to assist in collecting those taxes. The work performed by that gentleman last year seemed to him (Mr. Ross) to be marvellous. He had been surprised that the clerk in charge had been able to get the work without asking for an assistant, and he (Mr. Ross) would not during a portion of the year ask for more than one assistant. He thought therefore that the increase in the grant was well deserved.

Mr. Ross next referred to the item of the salary of the clerk in charge of the local improvement branch. This was a very important branch comprising 150 or 160 local improvement districts, and it was entirely under that gentleman's supervision and control. It was necessary for the clerk in charge to keep in constant communication with those districts. He had to forward them all forms for assessment, all books required, all forms for the return of unpaid taxes and he had at the same time to assist in collecting those taxes. The work performed by that gentleman last year seemed to him (Mr. Ross) to be marvellous. He had been surprised that the clerk in charge had been able to get the work without asking for an assistant, and he (Mr. Ross) would not during a portion of the year ask for more than one assistant. He thought therefore that the increase in the grant was well deserved.

Mr. Ross then went on to make an explanation with regard to the estimates for public works of last year. He said the information on which those estimates were based, was not in many instances of a proper character. Members had not been able to visit the localities and make up their minds as to what was required; so that the estimates placed before the House last year were not of the character which they could have desired. However, the estimates were made up on the best information they could obtain at that time. One result of this state of things was that many of the undersigned by the Department, ran considerably over the estimate. Having enumerated a number of cases in point the Minister went on to say that he did not wish the House to infer for a moment that any of these monies were improperly expended, but what he would point out is that this condition of things arose from their having, unfortunately, on what proved to be insufficient information, itemised the estimates instead of blocking them. Now the Public Works Department might possibly be open to criticism in so far as its head was concerned; but he had not the slightest fear that the Department would be criticised as far as its officials were concerned. He had no hesitation in saying that he was proud of the service under his immediate control in the Public Works Department; he had no apologies to make for any member of his staff; he had no apologies to make either to the House or the country in respect of the amount of work done, or the manner in which it had been done during the past year; neither had he any apology to make in respect of his disposal for this object were not what they should be, for he was sure they could spend double the amount, but ten times the amount, in encouraging the agriculturists of this country, and could do it with advantage to the country.

DESTRUCTION OF WOLVES.

There was an item of \$1,500 for the destruction of grey and timber wolves, to be expended under regulations established by Order in Council.

This was intended for the protection of stock in the western part of the country. Proper regulations would be laid down, and it would be the duty of the Department of Agriculture to see that the amount voted by the House was properly expended.

These, continued Mr. Ross, were some of the things which the Department of Agriculture would have to do; and he had dwelt upon them somewhat in detail, because being a new department no doubt the Estimate would receive special attention and might be criticised more closely than those with which they were all more familiar. But he wished to say that the Government had no apology in offering its reference to this department. They believed that an agricultural and on agricultural areas expended the success and prosperity of this western country, and in these Territories which formed a purely agricultural country they would not look well after this branch of the public service. He should like to know in what part of the Dominion of Canada it should be looked after. He only regretted that the means at their disposal for this object were not what they should be, for he was sure they could spend double the amount, but ten times the amount, in encouraging the agriculturists of this country, and could do it with advantage to the country.

COURT EN BANC AT CALGARY.

The next item was that of \$100 for the Registrar attending the Supreme Court. When the Court sat in Regina the Registrar was not paid anything for attending it, but now that provision was made for holding court if necessary at Calgary or elsewhere, it was proposed to provide something for his attending court at other points.

THE LATE COLONEL MACLEOD.

The next item was \$100, being a grant to the widow and family of the late Hon. Mr. Justice MacLeod, C.M.G. He did not intend to say much on the item, for they were all aware of the great and valuable services the late Judge MacLeod had rendered the Territories. They hoped that the Dominion would by this time have relieved them from this responsibility, but hitherto it had not done so, and hence the vote.

As the Dominion Government had not seen fit to do its duty in the matter the position was that it was necessary for the Territories to make this provision. In 1886 it was equally necessary that the work was not in the right section, and instances had occurred where not only was it not in the right section, it was not even in the right township.

Again with a new House, with members coming fresh from the country after an election late in the fall when they had only the winter to look about them, those members had not been able to give the department all the information which they desired. He claimed that the members had given all the information, but even in parts of the country where as a rule the water supply was good and abundant and easily procured, there were small areas where a difficulty in procuring water was experienced. They found that they had not only to go into the western part but into the northern part also, and the north-western part; he was nearly forgetting his friend Mr. Connell, and he would add, into the south-eastern part as well. But the policy of the Government went a little farther. They were not content with merely demonstrating that water could be procured, but they endeavored to make the water available for the people in the districts where they operated by putting in the best casing.

He was sorry they had to get it from the other side of the line, but it was not possible to do it from this side, and by putting in a pump and by building a pump house to protect the pump, and by placing the whole in the hands of the overseer of the district, so that the public property which had cost considerable money might be properly preserved and looked after.

SCHEMES OF OLD TRAILS, ROAD ALLOWANCE DIVISIONS, ETC.

Dealing with the item of \$5,000 for the above (including the preparation of the necessary returns), Mr. Ross said the item for this service comes on which perhaps was required above all others; and they would endeavor as far as possible to meet the requirements of the situation by connecting guards already made and repairing those already constructed so as to make as far as possible a complete system of fireguards, and under the superintendence of the Deputy Commissioner, knowing as well as that the gentleman did the western part of the country, he had no reason to doubt that they would have at the end of next year a very different system of fireguards from what they had in the past—a system which he hoped would be a credit to the Department and a great and lasting benefit to the people of the western country, for in that western country if they lost the grass they lost the best crop they had. The grass must be saved or the people would be driven out.

THE PEACE RIVER ROAD.

Mr. Ross went on to refer to the item of \$10,000 referred to by him in the earlier part of his speech as being supplied by Ottawa and as simply passing through the books of the Territories. The opening up of this trail on the preliminary survey made by one of the North-West engineers last fall, he had every reason to believe, would be a great benefit to the people of the northern country. There was, he thought, no question that the Athabasca country, as it was called, was going to be a great revenue producer for the town of Edmonton. Everything

this country was concerned, but there was no record. This matter of fire guardians would in future be attended to by the Department of Agriculture. Game guardians had been appointed, yet the expense was great and on the whole it did not prove to be in the best interests of the Territories. This state of things would be remedied in the future by the Department of Agriculture, and he thought with a good deal of benefit to the Territories as a whole.

NOXIOUS WEEDS.

The Department had also undertaken to do with this important matter, and he did not doubt that members of the House would fully sustain the vote in the estimates (\$4,000) for the purpose of eradicating noxious weeds. He thought it would be found in the future that the Department of Agriculture would give a great deal of attention to the noxious weed question.

STOCK INSPECTION, HOSPITAL INSPECTION, IMPORTATION OF PURE-BRED STOCK.

Mr. Ross went on to allude briefly to point out that with six or seven engineers the old system there was a divergence of method; uniformity in the work was not obtained; many small works would not stand the expense of inspection and travelling expenses which were out of proportion to the importance of the work. It would, he said, be very well to have such a system were the country smaller than it is; but with such long distances to travel and so much ground to cover, a great deal of the expense was exorbitant when compared with the value of the work expected.

CLERICAL ASSISTANCE AND VERBAL AGREEMENTS.

On the item of \$671 for extra clerical assistance when required, the speaker said the Government thought it better to provide for extra clerical assistance in this manner rather than provide by order in council for a permanent man.

He referred to the great increase in clerical work during the past year, and pointed out that for ten or twelve years work was done by members of the Assembly in their respective districts which had now to be done by the Departments. Every member had been a kind of public works commissioner in his own district, and in many cases his members had verbal agreements for the purchase of land in extending road allowances, and for erection of public works, with private owners of land.

He did not think he was exaggerating when he said there were hundreds of such cases where the verbal agreements had been made, and not properly carried out.

The government found it necessary to engage clerical assistance in his department rather than when he left the Department at any time he should be open to censure for having left it in a backward and unsatisfactory state.

He should like rather to feel when he left the Department that he left it in a better position than when he took it up even though he had to spend a little extra of the public money to bring about this result.

LEGISLATION.

Mr. Ross then took up the vote for legislation which totalled \$30,125. The Speaker's allowance, deputy Speaker's allowance and indemnity of \$17,100 explained the sum of \$4,000 for printing stationery, funding bills, Ordnances, departmental reports, etc.) and cost of translating and distributing the same; he said provision had been made for reports and journals. Reports were almost a new feature and a large sum of money was necessary for printing those reports. That it was in the general interest that these departmental reports should be published, he did not think any member would gainsay.

The library vote (\$750) was the usual vote every year. The other votes were usual except the election re-vote of \$6,000. Some returning officers had been very negligent. They had sent in accounts without proper certificates, which had to be returned, and it became necessary to let them go into the next year. Hence the vote of \$6,000 to pay these accounts.

JUSTICE.

The total vote asked for the administration of justice was \$9,950 and he touched on one or two items which were new. There was the item of \$500 for the library of Supreme Court at Regina. They were of opinion that the money should be supplied from Ottawa for the maintenance of the library which was founded by the Dominion Government. Four years ago the whole library was destroyed by fire.

One of the ways which could be done

is to have a new library built.

He had already referred to this subject.

At least \$1,500 would be required for the library with cases which had occurred under the old regime.

There was an item of \$300 for painting bridges.

He thought this item would be utilised by the department for a portion of the year.

It was useless for the department to

try to lay some superstructure unless

they had some superstructure.

The revenues in connection with this department of inspection should be given at \$2,000 or \$2,700 this year.

The estimate was put down at \$2,500, but it should be a little more

as they had every reason to hope that the revenue would grow under the Steam Boilers Ordinance.

EXPROPRIATION OF LANDS—PAINTING STEEL BRIDGES.

This item of \$4,000 might be called a new item as it was the first time it had been in the Estimates for the full year.

Similar provision was made in the Supplementary Estimates for a portion of last year, and the amount was to

provide for the salaries and expenses of