Agnew opposed the payment of defunct school district debentures, and commended the proposal to obtain a new Territorial map. As to the salary of the deputy in the agriculture department, he thought it looked large, but if the gentleman was qualified for the position it was not large enough to complain against. He noticed an item of $75.00 for a Speaker's chair. That was not a large sum for a good chair, but care should be exercised in its selection. There was a small man in the House who wore a hat so large that it had to be padded; perhaps the man expected the head to swell, but that was impossible—the head was already as large as it ever would be. In buying a chair, one should be got which would not need to be padded.

Hon. members—Order, order.

Mr. Speaker—The point of order is not well taken. The hon. gentleman's own sense of good taste will prevent him making any statement against one whose position prevents any reply.

Mr. Agnew—I am very sorry, Mr. Speaker, that your position muzzles you. After brief references to the hospitals item, and to the work of agricultural societies, Mr. Agnew concluded his remarks.

MR. EAKIN (SALTCOATS,)

had no great fault to find with the supplementary estimates. The first grant for the salary of a law clerk supplied a long felt want. He had used to feel, particularly before the constitution was changed and when he had been personally as much responsible for legislation as the members of the executive committee, that he was at a loss because of the lack of some legal man around the House to whom all the members would have a right to go to get their ideas put in proper legislative form. But before entering upon any remarks, Mr. Eakin felt that he should compliment the hon. leader upon the speech he had made that day. Mr. Eakin had heard speeches by the renowned men in other Assemblies and Parliaments; and he had never heard a more lucid explanation of any position than Mr. Haultain had given that day,—a statement and a speech which would have been creditable in any Parliament in Canada. If in time Mr. Haultain decided so choose a different or a larger sphere, Mr. Eakin had no doubt that he would be found fitted for spheres even more exalted than the one he now occupied. Respecting Mr. Peterson, the Agriculture deputy, the member for Saltcoats believed he was a very well qualified man. He knew that Mr. Peterson had brought order out of chaos in the brand matter, and had been able to put the system on an orderly and businesslike basis. Perhaps the Government had been a little premature in changing the system, or had not given themselves long enough time to bring about the change; but it was easier to tear than to mend a hole. If the House had taken more time in putting through the mass of legislation passed last year, there might be less time required this year in considering those laws. But no doubt many mistakes would have been avoided if they had had a deputy Attorney General. On the Yukon question he held that the Government was perfectly excusable, considering all the circumstances, in not having made up its mind in time to take the House into its confidence last year. The right action had at all events been taken. There was no possibility of preventing liquor going into the Yukon. If prohibition had been attempted, high wines and spirits dangerous to health and life would have been smuggled in. He would have censured the Government if action had not been taken to regulate the traffic. From the moral point of view their course was commendable. The N.W.M. Police could carry out regulations, but could not make regulations. Mr. Eakin did not want Mr. Mowat to leave the country without full credit for the school bill he had introduced; but he had learned—before he ever came to Regina; he had never heard it mentioned here—that Mr. Mowat was only a sort of godfather to the bill, which had been largely compiled by a legal gentleman in the House.

Mr. Mowat—I deny that.

Mr. Eakin cheerfully accepted the denial. In any event very important principles of the school law had been changed since Mr. Mowat's bill came down, and for the changes the Government and other members were responsible. All the members were entitled to some credit for the legislation on the statute books. Up to last year every member was responsible for legislation. Formerly there were 29 equally responsible legislators. All had the privilege and the duty, equally with the Government, to bring in bills. Within the one year since full responsible government came in vogue, there had been two sessions; and in these sessions the Government had shown a spirit of commendable progress. They were to be congratulated upon their ideas of development; and upon the modification and simplification of the laws, so that he who run might read. The educational progress was gratifying and was the direct result of the new system of grants. This year only 18 per cent. of lowest grade teachers were in the service. The old system paid by standards, not by grades. Under the present system trustees could engage 2nd class teachers at no greater cost to the district than 3rd class; and they thus got better education. The country schools especially required well qualified teachers, because in the country schools one teacher had to handle all the standards. Mr. Eakin did not wholly approve the present system of public works administration in all its bearings. The district engineers' work was not altogether a success. In this sparsely settled country, with people living so far apart, it was sometimes impossible to get tender and contract work done reasonably. He had two cases in mind. Only two men tendered, and their figures were far above the engineer's estimate. The reasonable belief was that the contractors had made a combination. Then again the district engineers had such extensive districts that they could not pay full attention to all parts. The system needed some change. Where the Statute Labour Overseer was a good man, would it not be possible to employ him? Mr. Eakin warmly approved of day labor in preference to tenders. In view of the failure to print the Consolidated Ordinances this year, it was unfortunate that more copies of last year's Ordinances were not obtained for distribution. Inability to procure printed copies of the law had caused some dissatisfaction. If the Brand Ordinance had been put in the hands of the people much anxiety would have been relieved. He regretted Mr. Mowat's allusion to the Public Works deputy. His own impression was that, judging by his ability and the value of his work, Mr. Dennis was the most ill-paid man in the service. Mr Dennis was one who did not spare himself; his illness last summer had been directly due to overwork. Mr. Mowat's insinuation about the $900 he absolutely refused to believe, although he had no information about the matter. But if his ability to judge character was any good at all, he knew that Mr. Dennis was not a man who would do such a thing. He approved the plan to encourage improved stock breeding, but wanted to know how the plan was to be carried out. Would the money be divided between districts? or would every man who applied be attended to until the money was exhausted? If so, one wide-awake section might derive the whole benefit. He was not much in favor of the experimental work policy. The Dominion had undertaken that work, and Prof. Robertson said they were going to carry on on the very lines here proposed. He had not implicit faith in experiments. The experimenters once found a better wheat than Red Fyfe, but he noticed that both for output and price Red Fyfe was still king. A few years ago Brome grass was found to be the great thing, but this year Mr. McKay told him it had been a failure. Except for a few kinds of grains and grasses, he feared the small sum voted would not be of much use; and to-day we had heard that money was not likely to be plentiful in the immediate future. He questioned the wisdom of going in for a scheme which they might be unable to follow up. The most important question of the day was the position of the Territories. All other considerations amounted to little in comparison with the matter of looking forward to provincial status. He believed that the present subsidy was spent to the very best advantage, and believed that the people were well satisfied with the present simple form of government. Until they could see a substantial advantage in a change, they would not favor it. Mr. Eakin thought it was too early for the change. The whole question should be maturely considered. Four years from now it might be submitted to the people. He admitted that Mr. Haultain's argument respecting the necessities of the schools was very strong. The rungs of the ladder planted in the common schools should lead the child who wished to climb up to the university. If the alternative was to lessen the school grants or go in for provincial establishment, there would be no room for choice. But they should first ask the Dominion to give all the Territories are entitled to, and remain as we were as long as possible. Of course if the Dominion would hand over the lands and minerals, even though much of them had been squandered on corporations, he would say, Go in for provincial establishment right now. However, the advantages and disadvantages would have to be fully discussed before the step could be taken.

DR. PATRICK (YORKTON)

spoke as a comparatively new member. He had read that great latitude was allowed on the motion to go into supply, but confessed that he had had no idea of the length to which members might go. He was satisfied with the civil service policy of the Government—with the manner of appointment, and with the plan of paying good salaries to good men. The Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain had explained the reason of the better management of public institutions in Great Britain than in the United States, by the statement that in Great Britain it was the policy to employ technical men for technical work and when the best available man was secured, he was paid whatever salary was necessary to retain him. It appeared to Dr. Patrick that the North-West Government had adopted this wise policy. Their head in the Education branch was a man of unquestioned reputation, whose mere presence in the Territories drew attention to the country. His salary was not any too large for a man of his standing. If it was an evil thing to pay the official a higher salary than was paid the political head, there was a remedy to be found in a different direction than suggested by Mr. Mowat. He had been himself very favorably impressed by the courteous, careful and complete replies received from the department over which Mr. Dennis was placed, a department which handled an immense volume of business connected with statute labor and other public works. He understood the department had been bringing up also arrears of work, and he had no difficulty in believing that the illness from which Mr. Dennis suffered was the result of over work; his illness had been a loss, and the Government would likely have heard him (Dr. Patrick) growling only that he knew Mr. Dennis was ill. Mr Mowat admitted his belief that Mr. Dennis earned the salary; it followed that there must be work for him to do. If there was not work he could not earn his salary. It followed again that if the salary was not paid the work would be left undone. Mr. Peterson, the Agriculture deputy, was a new man, not a native Canadian, but a Dane. Such being the case, it was patent that no family "pull" or influence gave him the position. He must have gained the position by some reason existing in himself. It spoke well for a foreigner that he was able to rise in this way by his own worth. He had been sizing up Mr. Peterson and was very favorably impressed. He noticed since Mr. Peterson's entry into the office an improvement in the brands business; his communications were business like. He found also that Mr. Peterson had very extensive knowledge of agriculture. It was not easy to get business training and the knowledge of agriculture together. The House, proceeded Dr. Patrick, had been told by the leader in his very clear statement that the Territories were verging upon provincial establishment, that the time would soon come when the revenues derived under the present system would prove insufficient for the requirements. It was certain that money could not be paid out if it did not come in. The possibilities of the widow's cruse had no application in these days so far as governments were concerned. The sources of revenue were local and federal. Besides what came from Parliament, there were only the fees from licenses and other odd fees. Then there was the plan of direct taxation. The license fees would not increase relatively to the expenditure. Taxation would be a fertile source of revenue if all the lands were available; but it would be unfair to tax the small landlords while the corporation landowners were able to evade the tax. Again there was the plan of borrowing money. While he would oppose any reckless borrowing, yet he could see a justification in borrowing against the day when all these lands would be available for taxation. Practically we had to look for revenue to Dominion grant or subsidy, or to borrowing. He inferred that Mr. Haultain believed that under provincial establishment our subsidy would be greater than we can expect Parliament to grant under present conditions. He would be sorry to see the day of reckless borrowing, and the longer that day was put off the better. The population was very small, yet to be given the borrowing power; and too large a proportion were squatters or men with grazing leases who had no absolutely permanent stake and might move away. Manitoba was placed under debt—he was not saying whether wisely or not—by men who are not now in the province. Joseph Martin was an instance; he was gone from the province, but the debt remained. Aside from the advisability of going into debt, it was not good public policy to place unrestricted borrowing power even indirectly in the reach of a people many of whom have not definitely decided to make their homes in the country. When the time comes for establishment there might be a suggestion that a more equitable division of the original Hudson's Bay Co.'s territory would have to be made. If there had to be further division the eastern territory would prefer to have two provinces made of the Territories than be forced to go into Manitoba. There was this point in favor of such a proposition: Every province received a certain subsidy for the support of government and legislature. Two provinces would receive for these purposes twice as much as one province, but of course there would be some additional expense borne by Canada. One province would undoubtedly best serve the interests of the North-West Territories for all time to come. Before any serious endeavor for establishment, every means, short of that, to get the necessary revenue should have been exhausted. Dr. Patrick wanted a clearer statement from the Premier as to the exercise of the borrowing power which provincial establishment would bring. Would he advocate having any limitation placed on the borrowing power?

MR. MEYERS (KINISTINO)

thought the hon. member for Macleod deserved the congratulations of the House and country for his clear budget statement. There was also another member in the Government upon whose presence there the House also had reason to congratulate itself,—that was the hon. member for Moose Jaw. He was an experienced member; he had grown up with the Assembly; he had proved to be a man of practical ability well worthy of his position, and had carried on the affairs of his important departments to the satisfaction of the Assembly and the people of the country. Of the illness of the most capable deputy head of the Public Works department, Mr. Meyers had heard with regret. There was no doubt that the illness was caused by overwork, and he was very glad that Mr. Dennis was again able to give the country the benefit of his very valuable services. Mr. Meyers believed in the principle of securing good men and paying them well. He did not think that Mr. Dennis was receiving an adequate salary. The salary asked to be voted to Mr. Peterson was not large. From all he had seen of the Agricultural deputy he believed he was a very satisfactory man. The general policy of the Government had been already well discussed, and as he had little to find fault with and few new points to suggest, he would not take up the time of the House.

MR. McDONALD (FT. QU'APPELLE)

said that one of the interesting topics during the past year and a half had been the enlarged powers given the Territorial Government. It was now time to ask whether the enlarged powers had been used to advantage, and in relation to the Government and members of the Legislature the question would shortly be answered by the people. The leader had aptly pointed to the statutes for the policy of the Government. It was by the Ordinances that the Assembly met the requirements of the country. The statute labor law was a good sample, which furnished the most economical means ever imposed in any country of doing road improvements. The Village law, the Municipal law, the School law and others could be pointed to as embodying policy,—very expedient and advisable policy. As conditions changed and the country developed, the laws were changed from time to time to meet new conditions. Although the House was not voting full Estimates, and for that reason all the more gratifying, a new vote was asked for the promotion of the agricultural and ranching interests. To the smaller and isolated stockmen the scheme of assistance would prove particularly beneficial. He believed the idea underlying the scheme was correct. Some years ago Canadian cattle commanded the highest price in England, but of late years, although exportation, particularly from the North-West, was increasing, the quality had not been kept up and Canadian beef had fallen to second place. He was gratified also with the proposal to initiate agricultural experiments. The only criticism of the plan was that it was not large enough. He believed himself there would be ground for criticism if the vote was not increased in succeeding years. He believed the settlers of the country would appreciate this work. The cost of experiments ought to borne by the Government. To depend on philanthropy was all right if the bill was filled; but the Government had a duty to further the interests of the country. Making comparison with government in Manitoba, Mr. McDonald found that the North-West Estimates this year just about equalled Manitoba's in 1884. With a revenue of half a million dollars Manitoba in 1884 spent upon its civil service $57,000. The Territorial Government spend less than half that amount. Manitoba aided schools to the extent of $70,000; the Territories are this year giving $139,000, just about double. The critics should consider some of those points. These facts were likely to affect the Territorial view on the question of annexation to Manitoba. There might be some temptations in regard to railway extensions, but there would be decided educational and taxation disadvantages. He had been elected on a platform of one province for the Territories, and he would uphold that principle. Mr. McDonald, referring to the new Brand law, hoped the Government would not fail to see that men who had made due application and remitted fees before the change, and who had received back neither brand nor fees, would now be given a proper return; he would not be satisfied until they were. He also strongly advocated the taking of steps which would lead to the sale of certain of the school lands without loss of time. The lands in settled districts, as for instance around Indian Head and Qu'Appelle, should be sold. The opening of the lands to settlement and taxation would be of assistance to the school and local improvement districts. In conclusion, Mr. McDonald said that during his term in the House he had endeavored to judge all questions by their merits without regard to their source. He had been elected as an independent member, and he had in a majority of cases been compelled to give the Government his support because their estimates and their legislation were in the right direction. So long as affairs were conducted in the same way by the Government he would continue to support them. The work of the district engineers had perhaps not come up to expectations, but that was a matter of detail. The fault seemed to be a fault of economy. There was only one engineer where two were needed.

It was nearly 10 o'clock when the Commissioner of Public Works and Agriculture

MR. ROSS (MOOSE JAW)

took the floor which he held, and held the House interested, for almost two hours. He said that the House recognized with pleasure the fact that Canada as a whole could be congratulated upon having entered an era of almost unequalled prosperity. The Dominion had gained a proud position, and was now taking a foremost part in the councils of the Empire. Canada was recognized as the first of the colonies and everywhere were marked evidences of prosperity. An impetus had been given to all lines and branches of business. The manufacturing industries were flourishing and the factory men were enlarging and extending their factories and operations to cope with the improved possibilities of trade. The importers of the Dominion were experiencing the same gratifying improvement, and all the mercantile classes and men in every branch of trade and business were feeling the effects of the "growing time." The North-West Territories were to be congratulated as well, for the same evidences of prosperity were to be seen here. Agricultural conditions had never been so flourishing and favorable; the prospects had never been equal to present prospects. Farm products were found to be of enhanced value, and the returns were generous and encouraging. The stock raising industry was in the same favorable condition. The value of cattle was high, and there had been nothing to interfere with a good calf crop. Even the Assembly which was not usually directly affected by the fluctuations of trade, commerce or agriculture, found itself in a flourishing state financially, according to the budget brought down by his colleague the hon. member for Macleod. The House had good reason to be proud of a leader who could make so lucid a statement and so able an exposition of the affairs of the country as the member for Macleod had done that morning. It was satisfactory to the members, and he felt sure that it would be satisfactory to the people of the country when they read it. But the country would be more satisfied with it if they could have heard it. The country might be assured that the colleagues of the hon. leader of the Government fairly hugged themselves with satisfaction every time he took the floor and proved anew his ability to deal with force and intelligence with the affairs of the Territories. Some cries were heard outside about silent members, about lack of criticism, about one man power, and about the undue power of the Government. He did not know whether those cries were worth denying. As a matter of fact, that Assembly was not a silent Assembly. The members of the House might not blat on every opportune and inopportune occasion, but it was a House in which was heard, and heard frequently, in fact, continually, intelligent discussion and criticism of legislation and of administration. He could say this as a member who had been in the Assembly or the North-West Council for a continuous period of fifteen years, and who had been regularly in his place in the House for seventeen consecutive sessions. To the members as much as to the Government was due the credit for whatever was good in the legislation and statutes, and as a member of the Government he was pleased to acknowledge the fact that the members of the House had at all times shown a desire and a willingness to give suggestions and to lend the benefit of their best advice towards the improvement of legislation and in the interest of the common cause of the Territories. In every Council and in every Assembly to which he had belonged, during 15 years and throughout 17 sessions, he could bear testimony to the fact that at all times and on every occasion the members as a whole had bent their energies and their abilities—and that there were good abilities was amply attested by the character of the laws and the excellence of the institutions thought out, framed and formed—in the best interests of the Territories. Turning to the Estimates Mr. Ross said that the hon. leader had gone so thoroughly and clearly into them, that he would not take up the time of the House in going over the same ground.

THE PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. Mowat had complained that the expenses of the public works department had increased. It could not be gainsaid. There were more officials in the department than formerly. It fact there had been no such thing as a public works department until this Government organised it last year. Before that a member of the Executive Committee had in a certain way looked after the expenditure upon public works, and each member of the House had been a member of a public works committee, and did according to his own sweet will with the moneys apportioned to his district. The necessity of changing the system and organising a department was recognised. He did not know but that the organisation had been accomplished just about as soon as was advisable. At any rate it was decided to organise a department, and to himself was entrusted the duty. He first looked around for a techical officer. He did not pretend himself to know particularly anything about the technical part. After looking around he discovered in Mr. Dennis one whom he thought was the right man and he believed he had not been mistaken. Mr. Dennis was well equipped with a general knowledge of this country, gained in connection with the Surveys branch of the Interior Department; he had visited every portion of the Territories, and he (Mr. Ross) did not believe there was any other man in Canada who had as thorough knowledge of the Territories as Mr. Dennis. The Government had found him simply invaluable. He was thoroughly well equipped, too, in other ways. He was an engineer of good ability. Personally he had received an incalculable amount of assistance from Mr. Dennis. When petitions came in for works in any part, Mr. Dennis would be found to have knowledge of the very locality, and was able to give sound opinions, altogether apart from his office duties Mr. Mowat had condemned the high salary. Mr. Ross believed that a good man should be paid a good salary. Poorly paid work was not likely to be well done. He did not consider that Mr. Dennis was receiving the salary which he deserved. He considered that the Territories and the Government were very fortunate in securing Mr. Dennis. The Interior Department had been extremely anxious to retain him, going to the length of offering to increase his salary. The Minister of the Interior had very kindly lent Mr. Dennis to the North-West Government for a time to give them the benefit of his experience and ideas in the organisation of the department, but the Minister had been very desirous to retain him in the Irrigation branch, and even after Mr. Dennis decided to come to the North-West Government the Minister desired him to keep control of the Irrigation branch and paid him $900 a year for directing that service. Mr. Ross said he had exercised all his ingenuity to advance arguments to induce Mr. Dennis to become deputy commissioner of public works, and he was pleased and satisfied that he had induced him to come. In connection with the references made to Mr. Dennis's reports favoring the Irrigation transfer, Mr. Ross said he hoped that Mr. Mowat did not mean to insinuate that Mr. Dennis got up the memos. for the purpose of securing more salary for himself; if he did he was entirely wrong. Mr. Dennis was receiving the $900 on account of the Irrigation work before the transfer; in that regard the change made no difference to Mr. Dennis. The Interior Department had such confidence in him that they were willing that he should oversee their irrigation business after he came to the North-West Government. There were excellent reasons for this Government to desire the control of the

IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION.

Excepting to a very small extent in British Columbia, irrigation was a subject affecting no part of Canada but the Territories. To the Territories it was a question of local importance. The local Government was in close touch with the people interested, and therefore better calculated to manage the system from the point of view of the people's convenience. At Ottawa the administration was only a side issue, and was very liable to fail to receive the attention that it would be given by a government more closely in touch with the people affected. This Government made their proposition with a view to gain full control of the administration. They did not succeed wholly, but had been put in the position of agents for the Interior Department, which in reality did give them the privilege of control and management. The change put the North-West Government in control of water rights. This was important to the eastern part as well as the west apart altogether from the question of irrigation. They were desirous of improving the water supply throughout the country which was one of the most important problems in the country. The change removes the necessity of applications for water rights going to Ottawa, a tedious and inconvenient course. Such applications may now be made to, and can be decided upon at Regina, much more expeditiously. The Government took the ground that they should have control of all matters of purely Territorial or local importance, and would endeavor to get control of all of these matters. In the irrigation administration they had the wedge well driven in already, and hoped soon to gain complete control. Considerable had already been done in the western part of the country in the way of irrigation. There are 135 ditches and canals constructed, covering a distance of 280 miles. These canals represent a cost of at least $120,000, and a point worthy of note was that in connection with them neither this nor any Government had ever been asked for a cent's bonus. Farmers were bonused in connection with creameries and experimental farms were established at public cost in the interest of agriculturists, but not a cent of public money had been given to the people who were making the experiment of applying water on the arid lands in the Territories. He thought that great credit was due the men who were showing the pluck to take the risks of this new departure in Canada, and hoped that before long something might be done in their assistance. Commencing last year surveys were being made of all the streams and water courses between Moose Jaw and Yorkton with a view to the development of a scheme for reservoiring water for the use of settlers. Returning to the public works department, Mr. Ross said he had secured a deputy commissioner and an organised department was the result. Dr. Patrick was perfectly right in his remark about the very great amount work done in the department, and about there being arrears of work to cope with. The arrears were not the fault of anyone. There had been no department before to attend to the work. He gave some statistics to show the amount of work done. For instance within the year the department had received 8000 and had sent out 10,990 letters, an average of 48 per day. Then there were 6000 circulars sent out. The communications altogether averaged 62 per day. Fyles were made to the number of 2735. Previously there had been no fyles, and no records kept. It was a common occurrence for the deputy to come to him saying I've found another bridge this morning, or I've just located another dam. By and by, he supposed, the department would get hold of all the public property; up to date they were constantly finding works of which there had been no record kept. There had been 387 road surveys made and not properly recorded; this involved a very large amount of work. The plans had been in possession of the members, or the engineers. Some were mislaid; some were lost, which was a serious matter. The work had cost about $20,000 What constituted valuable property had been left in scattered hands, and no index or record kept. Another feature of the loss was that some of the surveys had involved the acquirement of lands, where there had to be deviating surveys. Usually the possession had been given for a nominal consideration, sometimes for a dollar, sometimes for no consideration. But now in many cases it is found that the person who gave possession is dead or removed, and the new people are not willing to renew the arrangement. It was impossible to estimate the loss caused by failure to find the plans and records in such cases

SOME OF THE DETAILS.

The department had made 420 survey plans for public works, in addition to 425 special surveys; had awarded 370 contracts; had received 127 applications re opening highways; and 57 applications re the closing of public highways. The western members would be able to appreciate the difficulties in the latter applications. The regular survey system did not well fit the foothill country, where straight roads were not possible. In these questions particularly Mr. Dennis was invaluable. Within the past few months a great many knotty questions had been straightened out. The items of the Estimates, main and supplementary, this year totalled 871 separate works. The correspondence over these alone was no little matter. There had been handled since 1896, no less than 1,300 items of work, involving an expenditure of $318,000. The House would realize that there must be considerable work associated with that amount of expenditure, a great deal of which was upon small works. There had been the examination and passing of 3,500 accounts, and the posting, etc. $2,078 had been received in revenue, which had to be accounted for and attended to. If the expenses of the administration were increasing there was some return from it. This $2,078 would be augmented by about $1000 by the end of the year. The department had, and was directing the operation of, 23 road graders and 24 well boring machines. The numbers of the machines were recorded; the department would not lose track of these machines, and no machine would be lost in the future as had once occurred in the past. There were 28 coal mines in the Territories, the inspection of which the department was carrying out. The steam boilers inspection had involved the sending out and the receipt of a large number of application forms. He came now to Statute Labor, a very important branch of the department's work. There were 358 districts organised, with 58 in process, making 416 districts to be in operation next year. The returns from each separate district had to be audited, and the department had to prepare such forms and send out such instructions as to enable intelligent work to be done. These details would give some idea of the work of the department.

THE POLICY OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The policy of the department was to, as far as possible, effect permanent public works. Whenever feasible, they were putting up steel instead of wooden bridges. At the present low price of steel, a bridge of steel placed on piles could be built for $700 which if made of wood would cost $600. Wooden structures would necessitate continual large votes for repairs. They hoped later to be able to use cement for foundations, so that their bridges would stand for at least 40 years with a renewal of floors. In making distribution of the public works fund the Government kept the whole Territories in view. The district expenditure had been cast aside. It would do Mr. Mowat no good if he were able to pick out what each district got. Expenditures were not made because of the pressure of the members, although that was certainly a factor, and the members were able to give valuable information and advice. But other considerations were given weight. They had the reports of their engineers, and they had their own information and ideas about the respective requirements, to guide the expenditure. It was impossible yet to absolutely follow the rule of spending the money where it would be of greatest value, because there were certain requirements in every portion which had met; but it was the aim of the department to expend the money only on works of first importance in the different portions of the country. The electoral districts were not considered at all in the distribution. The great divisions, however, were considered. In the west bridges were required, which they were endeavoring to provide. In the east—the grain growing area—good roads were the requirement, so that farmers might haul large loads and lessen the cost of conveying their grain to market; so in the east the department devoted attention to main highways and trails. They endeavored to encourage the Statute Labour districts to undertake the small works, by spending a certain amount of money in them. They had expended $10,600 through the district Overseers. From last year's returns, when there were 99 districts in operation, it was found that 8,470 days' work was done; 350 miles of road was made; 250 miles of fireguard; 16 bridges were built; five dams built; four dams repaired; 47 culverts made. This year he had reason to believe that fully 1,000 miles of road was made; 600 miles of fireguard; 30 or 40 bridges, probably considerably more; about 100 culverts and 15 or 20 dams; 25,000 days' work was done, worth $37,000. This was good development. Regarding the inspection of public works, he intended to arrange to lessen the cost. The member for Saltcoats had referred to the district engineers lacking time to attend to all the work. That was true. He had not felt justified in enlarging the staff, but hoped to work out a better policy for the inspection of small works. He had managed local inspection of $10,000 worth of small works done this year through the Statute Labor districts. The plan answered well. It put the department in closer touch with the Overseer, who became interested in the work and did his best. The department had this year constructed $200,000 worth of works. Works to the value of $50,000 had not required inspection, leaving $150,000 worth of work to be inspected. The cost of inspection was $6,000—really only $5,000 for $1,000 had gone into bridges. So the inspection after all amounted to only 4 per cent. He thought that was not an unreasonable cost, and could not help thinking that a mistaken impression existed regarding the inspection. But he hoped to do better still. As to the policy of giving contracts by tender,—he knew of an instance where two men put up a job. There was always liability of such occurring; but he could tell the House that day labor was not without its possibilites of collusion either. The department had to contend with these difficulties. This year a large amount of work had been done by day labor; it had been difficult in many cases to get work done at all. The times were so prosperous and men were engaged in other ways; contractors wouldn't tender on the small works done by the Government, and the department had had to fall back on day labor. Or where the tenders received were considered unsatisfactory, they would not award the contract, but have the work done by day labor. The works for which money was voted last year were all either completed or well under way,—every piece of work. In no year had so much proportionately been done of the work voted for. The items provided for in the supplementaries would be proceeded with as fast as possible. The Government had no intention of holding any of the work back as an election dodge; they would be careful in every particular piece of work, and if it was found possible to complete it, it would be completed this year. He was certain that 90 per cent. of all the work appropriated for in the 16 months would be completed within the time, and even hoped that 100 per cent. would be completed. In dealing with all their work and all their patronage the Government acted in a manner to merit the confidence of the people. The Public Works, together with the Agriculture department, was the largest spending department. The Education department paid out large sums, but it was all paid under Ordinance. It was of greatest importance that these large spending departments should be managed on business principles, and they had adopted and strictly adhered to business principles. In consequence they could go before the electors and claim that there could not be a shadow of ground for charges of favoritism against the Government. A strong plank in the Government's policy was that Dominion party lines should not be recognised in that House. It would be useless to expect the people to believe that the Government was sincere in that stand, if they saw that men could come to the Government and because they were Grits or because they were Tories could obtain work or obtain favors from the Government. If the party lines were ever drawn it would be largely on account of the use made by the Government of the patronage at its disposal, and because the people had come to believe that men could get favors from the Government because of their particular political stripe. He would

DEFY ANY MAN

in the House or in the country to show that in any work done by this Government any favoritism was shown in the letting of the contract or in any way. So far as concerned local patronage, and there was considerable at the capital—and for his part he believed that the capital would remain in the same place for a long time to come—he had adopted this principle: If there were two or three men in the line of business, his instructions were to buy from them alternately, to make an equal division. That was fair and proper. Every citizen who was helping to build up town and country had a right to the patronage in equal measure.

SOME OF THE VOTES.

In the items the House would see one of $1,000 for repairs to furniture and buildings, and for new furniture for some of the public offices. They contended that the Ottawa Government was under the duty to supply the necessary buildings and furnishings for this local Government. He had applied to the Minister of Public Works at Ottawa for certain improvements, but the application was not heeded; and the local department had been compelled to carry out the improvements. But he was glad to say that the Ottawa authority had since recognised the claim, and although this $1,000 appeared in the Estimates, in reality $886 of the amount had already been repaid by Ottawa. There was $100 to be voted for inspection of coal mines. If their Ordinance was to be of any avail proper inspection of the mines must be made. They had provided for two inspections in the year and had secured for inspector a man who was very well qualified. Upon the benefit to be derived from the item for a Territorial map, he would not enlarge. Some comment had been made upon the item for a Speaker's chair. In all legislatures it was usual at the end of the term for the Speaker to take home the chair and the gown, and Mr. Ross trusted that the House would not deny their Speaker this privilege. Mr. Speaker had filled the responsible and important position to the satisfaction of the House, and was well entitled to the chair to be handed down as an heirloom in his family. (Laughter.) $1000 was provided for Steam Boiler inspection. The House had adopted legislation this session dealing with the matter, from which it was expected the service would more than repay its cost. There was the item to pay one-third of the bonus to a grist mill owner whose mill had been burned; this was not really paying out public money, because the Government had derived the money from insurance on the mill. There was an item of $2,000 for the substructure of a bridge over the Kootenay river. Southern Alberta required and should have large improvements in the way of bridges. The country was traversed by swift and dangerous streams. There had been many drownings. The Dominion authority should have bridged those streams. Some of the work was beyond the present power of the Territories. He was endeavoring to get the Government at Ottawa to make provision for bridging the Belly river, and hoped the Dominion would recognise the necessity. The Territories were assisting to bridge the Kootenay river; the bridge would be a steel structure and in every way a credit to the department. Provision was made for a dam over the Qu'Appelle river at Katepwe. There had been two dams in that neighborhood. One had gone out, and had left land drying up which was a menace to health. A survey had been made by Mr. Child, who reported that one dam at Katepwe would be better than the two. They would put in a dam which he hoped would stand for several years. Respecting items for ferries, Mr. Ross said it was the policy of the Government to acquire the ferries and cheapen the fees. The barriers against settlers who had to cross rivers should be made as light as possible. If the Government had the money the rivers ought to be bridged, but in many cases that was out of the question, and they were in duty bound to make the hardships attending the crossing of these rivers as light as possible. While the expenditure upon the ferries was shown, there was also revenues from them which would not appear until the receipts of next year. Another $1,000 was asked for well-boring. While the operation of the well-borers had this year been fairly satisfactory, the work was still one of the most unsatisfactory with which they had to deal. It was simply impossible to estimate any approximate result from any given expenditure. For a time things would proceed well, then a piece of territory would be struck yielding nothing but disappointment. The deep borers were very expensive. After sinking a certain distance the cost increased very largely. To bore a foot at a depth of 150 feet cost very much more than at 50 feet depth. He hoped still to do better in the operation of this branch. He was giving the subject his very best attention, believing that it was one of the questions most important to the people that they should have supplies of good spring water.

THE PEACE RIVER ROAD.

The opening of the road to Peace River had been criticized. The road had been dubbed "the Yukon route." He could say that this Government never had any idea of building a road or any part of a road to Yukon. The road was a road to Peace River, for the benefit of and for the opening up of the Peace River country. It was by no means a new subject. As far back as 1884 Mr. Oliver in the North-West Council had made out a strong case for the opening of the road, asking an appropriation of $2,000. The Council had been unable to undertake the work; but they "resoluted." The usual fate attended their resoluting, and nothing was done. Later on further efforts were made, but the Assembly was always prevented by lack of funds from doing anything. Last year upon very strong representations made by the members for Edmontan, Victoria and St. Albert the Government decided to undertake the work, and when the House at last session was asked for a vote for the purpose, the proposition was supported almost unanimously, one member (Mr. Bannerman) going so far as to express his willingness to forego all works in his own district in favor of the Peace River road; although he (Mr. Ross) had been obliged to remark then that Mr. Bannerman did still want a few things done in his district. (Laughter.) The Government had the route explored, and last fall went on opening it up. They met more difficulties than had been expected. The common idea was that the country north of Edmonton was bluffy; but for a distance of 200 miles the road ran through solid bush in which no open space was found as large as the area of the town of Regina. It was solid timber,—heavy spruce. There was 27 miles width of the best spruce he had ever seen, the trees standing from 60 to 80 feet without a limb. In other portions there were cottonwood and poplar. Having put their shoulder to the wheel, having commenced the work, the Government decided to complete it, and depend upon the House to sustain the action and the additional cost. He had no fears but that the House would support the expenditure when he informed them of the benefits which had already accrued. The opening of a road to Peace River gave the people of the Territories an opportunity to do the trading of and sell the supplies to both the Findlay river country and the Omenica country in Northern British Columbia. It also enabled prospectors to go to the Nelson and Liard country, and enabled the Territories to tap the trade of all those areas. At Slave Lake there were 700 people; there was a Roman Catholic mission and all the institutions which prevail in other communities, including schools, churches, etc. The people at Peace River sustained a cost of $300 a month for mail service, which showed that it was a district of no mean importance.

(To be concluded next week.)