

on the Dominion Government for reimbursement for all costs which Ontario has been put to by this reference to the Privy Council of these constitutional questions.

Then our next item of expenditure is Education, for which we expended \$579,465. Our estimate was \$581,112, or our expenditure was within the estimate by \$1,947.

For Public Institutions Maintenance we expended \$721,602, as against an estimate of \$705,654, or an over-expenditure of \$15,938. The expenditure in connection with our Public Institutions now amounts to about one-fourth of our whole revenue. It absorbs about two-thirds of the amount that was allotted to us by the B. N. A. Act to meet the whole expenditure of the Province. Of this, \$557,309 is for the support of the Insane and Idiot Asylums, and the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind Institutes, the mentally and physically afflicted. The remaining \$164,293 is the cost of our criminal institutions, the Central Prison, Boys' Reformatory and Mercer Reformatory. In 1884 I presented to the House figures made up for ten years shewing what had been the cost of maintaining these institutions and the number that had been admitted. The conclusions I then drew from these figures were, that in regard to all the institutions outside of the Insane and Idiot Asylums, the Province had, as it were, reached the position when the expenditure would not be likely to increase, and the accommodation was up to the requirements of the day. Fluctuations no doubt would take place, and perhaps a gradual increase in consequence of the gradual increase of population. That view has been confirmed in the five years which have elapsed since that date. The inmates of our different penal institutions in 1883 were 1,620; the inmates in 1888 were 1,635. The daily average in 1883 was 718; the daily average in 1888 was 710. Then take the Deaf and Dumb and Blind; the total inmates in 1883 were 426; in 1888 421; the average daily attendance in 1883 was 384; in 1888 370. Then taking both the penal institutions and the deaf and dumb and blind, the total population in 1883 was 2,046, and in 1888 2,056; the average daily population in 1883 was 1,102, and in 1888 1,080. I think therefore that we may fairly say that this is satisfactory, and leads to the conclusion that we have, so far as these institutions are concerned, both in accommodation and cost of maintenance, arrived at the maximum of what the Province may be called upon to do.