this difference has arisen, as it would be much better to settle all these matters by a friendly arbitration, than to have recourse to law. As Quebec has refused to arbitrate, I think the Dominion should credit the amount to Ontario, and charge the old Province of Canada as I requested them to do three years ago, leaving Quebec to contest the charge if so inclined. The Dominion has in other matters assumed to settle claims aginst the old Province of Canada without reference to the Provinces, and I think she would have a better justification in this, the equitable claim of the municipalies being so strong.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I come to another matter. I suppose the House will be pleased to learn that the Province has been successful so far in its suit with the insurance companies for recovering the loss sustained through the London Asylum fire. The House is aware, as I informed hon. gentlemen last session of the fact, that out of some twenty-six companies two companies only acknowleged the claim and twenty-four resisted it. Suit was entered. We appealed to the Courts, and judgment was given for the Province. I believe some of the companies in turn have appealed. I suppose the House is aware that, in accordance with the announcement made last Session, all our policies were allowed to expire on 1st May last, since which we have carried no insurance on our Provincial buildings. Since these policies have been allowed to expire a fire has taken place at the Agricultural College, involving a loss of $20,000, on which we formerly carried an insurance of $14,000, and in consequence some may hold that the position taken in regard to giving up insuring is one that was not justified. But, Mr. Speaker, we have an experience of seventeen years of insuring to enable us to judge as to whether the insurance of our Provincial buildings is profitable or not. During these seventeen years we have paid in premiums $133,334, while we have only received for losses $77,983, or there has been a profit to the insurance companies of $55,851. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think an experience of seventeen years is a pretty fair test, and I think it demonstrates that the policy of insuring our buildings is clearly unprofitable. I would not attempt to say that any individual should give up insuring, but the Government, having its risks scattered over the whole Province, is not in the same position as an individual, inasmuch as no loss that the Government might sustain could involve