

ing it just as they pleased. They are responsible to their own representatives. You will see now in the Auditor General's Report that these items are not audited at all.

Mr. DAVIN. Since 1891 the Auditor General does not interfere with them.

Schools in unorganized districts—Clerical assistance \$2,000

Mr. FOSTER. There was the same vote of \$2,000 last year, and yet there seems to be an expenditure of \$4,276.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The Auditor General must be more lenient with them than with others.

Mr. MONTAGUE. While the minister is looking for that explanation, I should like to say to the Postmaster General, that I have still less confidence in his law after reading the Revised Statutes of Ontario.

The PRIME MINISTER. Let us not go back to that.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I intend to do it, because the Postmaster General was not only dictatorial in regard to his statements, but I thought he was impertinent.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I did not intend either.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I suppose not, but the Postmaster General said there was no law by which a relative could be made to pay for an inmate of an asylum in the province of Ontario. He said he knew all about it. Section 220 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario says:

Where any lunatic sent to any asylum is under the age of twenty-one years, and has a father or mother able to pay for his maintenance, or a guardian or committee, it shall be the duty of the bursar and medical superintendent to send a copy of the certificate mentioned in sections 8 to 10 of the order of the lieutenant-governor (as the case may be), attested under their hands, to the father or mother, guardians or committee (as the case may be), of such lunatic, to which copy the said medical superintendent and bursar shall subscribe a certificate of the admission of such lunatic, and of the amount which will become due for him each quarter, the asylum, by the regulations of the asylum made in that behalf. (34 V., c. 18, s. 9.)

It shall be lawful for the bursar, conjointly with the medical superintendent, on the first day of each of the months of January, April, July and October, and during the time the lunatic remains in the asylum, to demand from the father or mother, guardian or committee (as the case may be) of the lunatic, such sum as may be due for the lunatic to the asylum, which sum shall be forthwith paid on such demand. (34 V., c. 18, s. 10.)

On the first of the said quarter days after the admission of the lunatic, such demand shall be for a sum proportionate to the broken period elapsed since the admission of the lunatic, and on the discharge of the lunatic a like demand shall be made for the sum due for the broken period since the then last quarter day. (34 V., c. 18, s. 11.)

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I am very sorry that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) drew the inference from my observations that I was either dictatorial or impertinent. I intended nothing of the kind. The statute read by the hon. gentleman covers the case of a father or mother, and the reference to the guardian or committee is as to the estate of the lunatic himself. I made that exception. I spoke of a friend.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I instanced the case of a husband and wife and the hon. gentleman said 'No.'

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I took issue with the hon. gentleman as to friends being responsible. I still say there is no law to compel friends or relatives unless they are in a close relationship like a father or mother. The father or mother would be responsible for a child up to a certain age. However, that is not the case I alluded to at all.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to know about this over expenditure for schools in unorganized districts. There is a vote of \$2,000, which the minister says is expended by the lieutenant-governor. He has no business to spend more than is voted, but last year he did spend \$4,200.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. There was a considerable balance at the credit of that fund.

Mr. FOSTER. There cannot be any fund, for our vote is only for one year, and if the money is not expended in that year it lapses.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am informed that it does not lapse in this case, and that they have had the money on hand.

Mr. FOSTER. It is expended under the supervision of the department here.

The PRIME MINISTER. I apprehend that it may be explained in this way. We put so much at their disposal every year, but they have their own estimates, and if they have a balance of one fund in one year, it does not revert to our hands, and in the following year they apply it in some other way.

Mr. DAVIN. I think my right hon. friend is under a misapprehension with regard to this vote. This vote is to the lieutenant-governor, who is responsible to this government for the way he spends it.

The PRIME MINISTER. I understand that my hon. friend is right, and I am wrong.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I have the same difficulty as the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster). The deputy minister states that for some reason which is not