

collected to meet such payments. If we cannot justify it to the people in this way we should hesitate on going into it. In fact if this sugar bounty business had to be done again I doubt if the Government or the Treasurer would again advocate the payment of such bounties.

Then there are some items that should be cut down. There is our old friend the Penetanguishene Reformatory costing \$30,000 a year for less than 100 boys—over \$300 a year a piece. The coal bill for the Reformatory is greater than that for these Legislative Buildings. There is another payment that I do not object to so much as to the manner in which it is paid in connection with the University. There should be a fixed annual payment to the University instead of the system of meeting its deficits. One year we pay a deficit of \$7,000, another year \$14,000 perhaps another year it is \$31,000. The men who are making these deficits are not checked in their expenditures when the grant is made in that way. There should be a fixed grant decided upon by the Government and an end put to this sliding arrangement to pay whatever the University owes.

As to the Sault Ste. Marie payment of course it was irregular, but it was a proper thing to a certain extent and this House has repeatedly justified the Government when a great disaster happens during a period when the Legislature is not in session if it goes to the rescue in a moderate degree. Take a city swept by fire. It would be a proper thing to devote a certain amount to relieving the distress, or in a country district ruined by storm it would be proper for the Government, even if the Legislature were not in session, to go to the assistance of the people. But that was not the case at the Soo. No such payment was contemplated by the people as the sum of \$250,000 and I say that no such payment would have been made by the Government had it not been that an election was on there. (Applause) A matter of \$50,000 or \$100,000 might have been all right. I am told that accounts were paid and that men with large salaries and other men who by no possible argument could be brought within the case of needing relief, were paid unjustly and yet the House will be asked to ratify that payment and the Liberal members will certainly support the Government when they are told to do so.

As to the estimates for the coming year—a suggestion was made last year, but not carried out, that the statutory payments should also be shown in any statement of estimates. We have for the coming year a statement of the estimated expenditure and receipts of the Province which certainly should cause grave alarm to the people of Ontario. The first expenditure provided for was \$4,457,000. There will certainly be supplementary estimates amounting to \$100,000. There are railway certificates, a great part of which payment is interest, of \$114,000, annuity certificates of \$102,000. There is a grant for sugar bounties of \$75,000, iron bounties, \$25,000, statutory grant for Kingston, \$22,500. I do not include the statutory grant to the University because it is in the estimates. This makes the total estimated expenditure \$5,097,736. Against that there is an estimated revenue of \$5,384,372, but \$1,500,000 of that estimated revenue will be from bonuses on last November timber sale so that the net receipts other than these bonuses will be \$3,884,000. Deducting that from the estimated expenditure, very little of which is made on Capital account, we are face to face with a deficit of \$1,213,000 for the coming year.

Now, Sir, the Province cannot go on in this way. We cannot have the timber sale to pay the expenses every year so as to bring in such special receipts. The timber left in the Province would not suffice for more than two or three such sales at the most and yet we have an ordinary expenditure of over five million dollars—considerably over one million dollars in excess of ordinary receipts.

I have been accustomed in past years to compare the expenditure with that of ten years previously. I do not think on this occasion we need go back so far. I propose to refer to the expenditures under the Mowat and Hardy administrations, and then take a record of Premier Ross for the past four years. In his own speech the Premier took six years to average the expenditures, knowing that in the two years previous to his assuming office the expenditures were far below what they have been during his time. In 1894 under Sir Oliver Mowat the Province expended \$3,800,000—incurring a deficit of nearly \$400,000. That state of things was continued for the next three years. Then in 1899 the then Premier, Mr. Hardy, determined to meet