

ficers. But I do not suppose that any Government in the world has managed to avoid overcharges or waste of supplies to the same extent as the Ontario Government has. If any have occurred they are of trifling character, and nobody supposes or pretends that they occurred with the knowledge of any member of the Government. They are the merest bagatelle as compared with the proved losses to the country in Dominion matters from private arrangements with contractors and with grantees of timber limits; in regard to which it cannot be said that no member of the Dominion Government for the time being had anything to do with them, and yet the Provincial Opposition do not condemn them. We have taken steps, however, to prevent the possible occurrence of even these small overcharges and excesses in future. The effort to make capital out of them is all the more absurd in view of the fact that the aggregate expenditure in the maintenance of our institutions, including all supplies, is undeniably very small as compared with most other institutions of the same kind in the United States and elsewhere. And yet no institutions of the same kind anywhere are conducted more efficiently or successfully than our own. Experts from other countries who have visited us from time to time so reported on returning to their own country. Let me give you some samples of the comparative cost, as taken from official reports. Thus, the average annual cost per patient in the Ontario asylums, after taking into account all the alleged overcharges for groceries, is less than half the average in the like asylums in Buffalo and Utica. The averages in the asylums at Trenton, New Jersey; Columbus, Ohio; Pittsburg, Penn.; and Fulton, Missouri, are 50 per cent. more than the average in Ontario. The Belleville Institute for the Deaf and Dumb has a like record; the like institutions in New York State costing 50 per cent. more per patient annually. In like manner, the cost at the Brantford Institute for the Blind is greatly less than in similar institutions in New York State and city, and in Maryland, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Massachusetts.

UNSOLD CROWN LANDS.

(2) The second item of Provincial assets which I have mentioned is our unsold Crown lands. Of some of these lands free grants are being made under statutory authority; and of the value or probable proceeds of such lands as may be sold, there has been no official or other estimate, and I, therefore, in reckoning the Provincial assets, put down no sum for these lands. Valuations, however, have been obtained of the site of the old Parliament buildings and other Government property in Toronto, which the Legislature has appropriated for sale, towards covering the expenditure on the new Parliament buildings, and I put down for these lands \$500,000.

DEBTS ON PAST SALES.

(3) The third item of our assets which I mentioned, is the unpaid purchase money on Crown lands already sold. An approximate statement recently prepared in the department shows the amount, with interest, to be about \$800,000 (or, more exactly, \$827,696). As all may not be realized, let me, to avoid all controversy, name one-half of this sum as the value of the item, say \$400,000.

THE SUBSIDY.

(4) The fourth item named of our assets, is the value of the annuity or subsidy to which the Province is entitled from the Dominion under the B. N. A. Act. The amount of this annuity under the B. N. A. Act is \$1,196,872, or nearly \$1,200,000. A perpetual annuity of