

he thought, that there was a general feeling in the house favourable to the change he had indicated. The constituency he had the honour to represent felt strongly on the subject, and at almost every meeting during the late contest, it was brought up. The Attorney-General had said he was not aware there was any dissatisfaction through the country with regard to the present system. Had he come into his (Mr. Evans') constituency, he would have found dissatisfaction existing there at least. But, as the Government promised to consider and deal with the subject, he was willing to withdraw the motion.

Sir HENRY SMITH considered this was a subject of too much importance to be dealt with by a committee without the concurrence of the Government. It was a subject pregnant with difficulty however it might be looked at. If these officials were paid by fixed salaries, the danger was that they would not perform their duties. When they were paid, as at present, by fees, the charges often caused dissatisfaction, and indictments were preferred unnecessarily. Difficulties often arose between the County Councils and the County officials, for when the County Attorney brought in excessively large bills, it was no wonder that the county refused to pay them. On the other hand, some Sheriffs were in the habit of charging exorbitant fees—in some instances, double and treble fees. He knew of a Sheriff who had charged for official advertising, double and treble the amount which he actually paid. On a reference of the bills of that Sheriff to taxation, he knew of their having been cut down one-half; where he charged \$30 his bill was taxed \$15; where he charged \$26, it was taxed \$13; and soon. The Government, he thought, would have to go to the root of the evil. The evil had been, that appointments had been made on political grounds, without reference to the question of fitness for office. He hoped, however, that under our new system, with a Government feeling its responsibility to the people, we would see appointed officials of a different class, who would discharge their duties faithfully to the public, and with credit to themselves. The way to strike at the root of the evil, was to dismiss the officials, who did not discharge the duties of their offices faithfully. In his own county there was an official who was never fit for the discharge of his public duties—but, in the past there was no use of complaining—the Government of the day would not remove him. He should deem it his duty on an early day to bring this particular case under the notice of the Government. But he would go further. He held that County officials should hold their offices during pleasure. The county official who discharged his duties faithfully need not be afraid of holding his office by this tenure. He would apply this rule to County Judges, as well as Registrars and County Attorneys. He regretted that, by the constitution, this Province had not the appointment of its County judges—that it rested with the Dominion Government. He would rather that they should be paid by the Province; and be responsible to ourselves, than that they should occupy the position they now did. An honourable member had complained that the Inspector of Registry Offices had not dealt with the alleged grievance of different fees being charged in different counties. This had nothing to do with that gentleman's duties. His duty was to go round among the Registry Offices and see how the duties were performed. His report, he understood, would be before the house in the course of a few days.

Mr. FERGUSON dissented from the view of the gallant knight, as to the appointment of County Judges. His (Mr. Ferguson's) idea was to keep the appointment of the judges as far from being under the control of the people, and even of the Government of the Province, as possible. They should be independent of the Government, and should not be appointed for political considerations. If his honourable friend's idea were carried out, we would have to pay the salaries of the County Judges, and not get better men. He thought we should not seek too hastily to interfere with this part of the Constitution. He disapproved also of the suggestion that