

would come when the Government would be administered in its finance just as they saw private institutions conducted. Banks and building societies, for instance, not only annually reported the profit they had made, but the reserve they had to set apart. The Government was living upon its capital, but it was necessary that provision should be made for the future. If the lands were opened to commerce, the revenue derived from that source should be shrewdly and prudently administered. They should be regarded as the capital of the country, and a portion only of this should be dealt with; the balance should be reserved to reduce the liabilities of the people.

The motion was then carried and the House went into Committee of Supply.

The items respecting the Lieutenant-Governor's office, \$2,500, and the Executive Council and Attorney-General's Department, \$12,130, were passed.

On item relating to the Treasury Department, \$17,250.

Mr. RYKERT complained that \$11,000 had been expended on plumbing during the past three years in connection with the Departments.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS said the whole of the details were before the Public Accounts Committee, and he considered it was idle to discuss the matter here.

Mr. CAMERON stated that the Government formerly was always willing to give all the information the representatives of the people required, and this was now more desirable in consequence of what he considered was the inefficiency of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. McLEOD thought this statement came with very bad grace from the leader of the Opposition, who seldom attended the meetings of the Committee.

Some further discussion took place as to the efficiency of the Public Accounts Committee, after which the item was passed.

On item No. 5, "Secretary's and Registrar's Office, \$21,845,"

Mr. M. C. CAMERON asked how it was there was an increase of \$200 for schedules, slips, and circulars.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said that there was an increase in the demand for these articles every year, and the \$200 was put on for the estimated increase.

Mr. LAUDER complained of the useless nature of the Registrar-General's Department, and maintained that the Registrar General himself admitted his inability to enforce the law, and said the report was unreliable and useless, but he hoped it would be better next year. If no material benefit could be obtained from the law, he thought the department should be abolished altogether. He was opposed to the voting of \$11,445 for this department which was so useless in its character. The statistics were of no use to the people. Medical men disregarded the law as also did others who were called upon to assist in the compilation of the statistics.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said the system had been increasing in efficiency year by year. There were two objects in view in the passage of this law. One was, that a sufficient record should be kept from time to time of births, marriages and deaths; and now in thousands of cases names and dates could be obtained that could not have been got in any other way. The second object was the obtaining the vital statistics of the country. He did not propose to endeavour to force compliance with the law. If it did not work well, the Legislature could afterwards deal with it. The report at present before the House was for 1872, and in the report which would be next published the increased efficiency of the scheme would be more marked.

Mr. CAMERON regretted that this measure ever became law. The experiment had not worked satisfactorily or efficiently, and the expenditure was greatly in advance of the benefits that accrued. There were much more efficient means of obtaining vital statistics, and that was through the census. He regretted that medical men and others disregarded the law, and the direct benefits which would otherwise result were lost. He thought the law should be enforced, or wiped out of the Statute book.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE said the hon member for South Grop could not have read the report of the Registrar or he would see that five sixths of the marriages had been registered. This he thought was a proof of the efficiency of the system. The deaths had not been so fully registered, because medical men would not assist the Government in the

manner desired.

Mr. GIBBS thought the charges with regard to medical men were scarcely correct. He pointed out that the names of children could not always be obtained, and that medical men were not cognizant of one-third of the deaths. He suggested that it should be made incumbent on families to make their own returns.

Dr. CLARKE considered this department a burden on the Province which gave no adequate return.

Mr. LAUDER asked if the Provincial Secretary intended to enforce the law during the next year. In the report that he had brought down lately he had intended that the law should be enforced, but the night he had said that he would not enforce obedience.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said he did not propose to institute any prosecution but to educate the people to the law without resorting to any harsh means.

Mr. RYKERT spoke of the necessity of the report being a complete one, and maintained that if the law was to be of any use he considered it should be enforced.

Dr. WILSON assured the House that medical men were generally very willing to give the information, and impressed upon the Government the desirability of enforcing compliance with the law.

Dr. BAXTER did not think the duties imposed by this Act were very onerous, and he was sure medical men were willing to give the information. They were, it was true, neglectful of their duty in many instances, but he did not see any reason why a law of so much importance should be repealed.

Mr. WOOD said the returns of the Registrar were regarded as a failure in his section of the country. The maintenance of this department was one which required the serious consideration of the Government. In his opinion the law should be enforced if the statute were not repealed.

Mr. MERRICK considered it the duty of the Government to enforce a law upon the statute book or remove it altogether.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said the importance of having such a system of registration as this was recognized in all civilized countries. It was also important that the registration should be as full and correct as possible, and they expected soon that the Provincial Secretary would be able to make reports that would be entirely satisfactory. The Act had not been long in force, and the people were not alive to the duties of it, but they were educated as to its provisions. It was not considered desirable to institute prosecutions against every man who had not complied with the law without reference to circumstances. Clergymen of the Church of Rome were making their reports as regularly as the clergymen of the Episcopal Church. He thought it would be a mistaken idea to abandon the system of registration, after the short trial it had had. After some further discussion the item was passed.

The following items were then passed:— Department of Public Works, \$17,502; do. Agriculture, \$1,000; do. Immigration, \$1,400; Public Institutions, \$5,450.

The Committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS moved that the Committee should sit again to-morrow.

Mr. CAMERON objected to this course as Wednesday was not a Government day.

Mr. RYKERT said that they did not want to hurry on with the estimates before they obtained certain information from the Public Accounts.

It was ultimately suggested that the House into Committee of Supply should go on the orders of the day to-morrow, on the consideration that it should not be proceeded with if any objection was taken to it.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said he would consent to that on the condition that his consenting would not prejudice the question as to the right of the Government to proceed with the order if they possessed such right.

This was agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Mr. CAMERON asked when the Franchise Bill and the modification of the Municipal Loan Fund Distribution Act would be brought down.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS said the Franchise Bill was distributed last week. He would shortly be ready with the other matter.

Hon. Mr. FRASER brought down a return relating to Immigration Agents.

Mr. LAUDER said that return was only asked for two or three days ago, and he did