

...ns and for shops; in towns, not less than sixty dollars for taverns and for shops; and in townships and in incorporated villages, not less than thirty dollars for each tavern and shop license: Provided always, that for each tavern license mentioned in section nine, sub section five, the said sum in cities shall not be less than one hundred dollars, and in towns not less than eighty dollars; but no by-law by which a greater sum than one hundred and thirty dollars per annum is intended to be exacted for any tavern or shop license, or for leave to exercise any other calling, or to do any other thing for which a license may be required, shall have any force or effect, unless the by law, before the final passing thereof, shall have been duly approved by the electors of the municipality, in the manner provided by the Municipal Act; and any by law so passed shall not be varied or repealed unless the varying or repealing by-law shall have been, in like manner, submitted to and approved of by the electors of the said municipality.

(3.) That the duty payable to the municipality, in respect of each license by wholesale, shall be the sum of fifty dollars.

The motion was carried.

THE QUESTION OF ORDER.

On the motion to adjourn,

Mr. SPEAKER said—Before the House adjourns, I will refer the House

to a case upon the question of order raised by the honourable member for South Grenville. It is not the case I had in my recollection, but is none the less applicable. It will be found in Hansard, Vol. 193, p. 1121 in the debate upon the iron clad fleet resolutions. Mr. McLaren said "Remarkable circumstances had been brought out by the committee now sitting. It appeared that 'ships' &c. Mr. Liddell rose to order. Mr. Speaker ruled:—"If a Committee has not reported, it is out of order to comment in this House upon the evidence taken before it."

The House then adjourned at 11 o'clock.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, Feb. 27.

The Public Accounts Committee met this morning at ten o'clock.

Mr. KNIFTON, time-keeper on the Central Prison works, was called as a witness in connection with the investigation regarding that matter. He testified to being employed as time-keeper at the time of Mr. Moss' first election. The men were allowed to have half a day's holiday upon the occasion of the nomination, and believed that Mr. Wagner gave an order to that effect. There was no deduction made in the pay of the men on account of it, although Mr. Wagner told him to keep the half day entirely separate from the rest, because he thought Mr. Moss' Committee would have to pay for it. He had so kept it separate.

Mr. HARDY—Did you hear the Commissioner issue orders to let the men go?

A.—No. Witness further stated that he got his orders from Mr. Wagner, but believed Mr. McKellar had issued them, that is, so far as the letting the men go to the nomination was concerned.

Mr. HARDY—Have you been in conversation with any person lately in connection with this matter? With Mr. Cameron or Mr. Lauder, for instance?

Witness said he had not. He had seen Mr. Lauder some five years ago, but did not know much of him. He went to the same church as Mr. Bickford, but only knew him by sight. He did not know how many of the men went to the nomination, but none of them remained upon the works that afternoon.

In reply to Mr. Sinclair, he said the men were not all supporters of Mr. Moss; some of them supported Mr. Bickford. He believed the men would have gone to the nomination whether they had got the holiday or not.

Mr. RICHARDS inquired whether he thought they would have gone if they had lost their pay for so doing. Witness said he thought they would. He was then discharged.

Mr. WAGNER, superintendent of the works was then called and sworn. He had been engaged by Mr. McKellar, and went on the works on the 18th Sept. last. Mr. McKellar had called upon him in his own house, and had not before met him. Witness had offered to undertake the duties for \$3 per day. Got no written instructions relative to his duties, and was told that the work must be proceeded with as expeditiously as possible. Received verbal instructions from Mr. Mc-

Kellar and Mr. Tully from time to time. From time to time he reported progress to the Commissioner, and sometimes consulted him. He was allowed to employ whom he pleased upon the works and no one had been recommended to him by the Government except one Lumley and a young man who came on the other day. Neither did the Government dictate to him as to the amount of wages he should pay except at the beginning, when the men were used to work unless an increase of pay was granted, he had told the Government that it would, he thought, be necessary to give such an increase, or else no men would accept of an engagement upon the works. They told him to try and get them at the old figure if possible, and if he could not do so to give them the increase demanded. He had advertised for men, and engaged them afterwards at an advance varying from 15 cents per diem to labourers, up to 25 cents to bricklayers. In December last there had been a general reduction. George Hellam was principal foreman of the works, and had \$5 per day until December, when he was reduced to \$4 in consequence of the general reduction. He had been employed as Inspector for the Government during the time of Mr. Elliot; but when the Department undertook the work, and he (witness) was made Superintendent, Mr. Hellam was made foreman and Inspector both, thereby adding to his duties. Mr. Hellam refused to undertake the work for less; and as a matter of fact, another man had been originally engaged to perform them at the same figure but had thrown the appointment up. Mr. Elliot's foreman had \$5 per day. There were five Hellam's employed upon the work, one as foreman inspector, one as foreman of a gang of bricklayers, and the rest simply as ordinary artisans. The foreman of the bricklayers had \$3 50 per day, but was reduced in December like the others. The bricklayers were paid \$3 a day of ten hours in the summer time; in December they were reduced to \$2 25 for the same number of hours. There was a certain amount of material on the ground when witness took charge of the work, which was used up, and he afterwards advertised for tenders for a portion of the supplies. For another portion, viz. lime, brick, and block-stone, he did not advertise. The stone he got from Cleveland some at 75 cents and some at 80 cents a cubic foot, delivered on the wharf at Toronto. The building of the fourth tier of cells, however, had not been finally resolved upon until it was too late in the season to get stones shipped from Cleveland, and he had purchased them in the city. He had also purchased 500,000 bricks without tendering for them. The reason for his so doing was that there were only two places at which he could procure the bricks, and if he had waited for the fulfilment of an order contracted

for, it would at least have been two months before he could have got them. They made bricks at the works until it was too late in the season for their manufacture. For one kiln of the bricks he paid \$8 25 on the ground, and for another \$8 85, delivered. He would require about a million bricks altogether. He bought the lime where he could get it cheapest, getting it at 22 cents per barrel. They used about 16 barrels of lime in three days. The largest number of men ever employed upon the works at one time was 300. The men had been allowed a half holiday on the day of the West Toronto nomination, according to instructions received from Mr. McKellar. The note containing the instructions was private, and he was ready to produce it with Mr. McKellar's consent.

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR was called, and consented at once to the production of the note which was accordingly ordered to be brought down on Monday.

Mr. WAGNER continued, that he was not aware that any one had addressed the workmen at the prison, but he was aware that Mr. Bickford addressed them at Tower's Hotel, on King street, one night as they were leaving. Witness still carried on a business of his own, which was conducted by a foreman. He went to the Central Prison at 9 a.m. and remained till night. Mr. Melville was contractor for the woodwork, and employed about 35 men. There was no intention at present of raising the men's wages. Mr. Melville had advanced his men's wages in September last in about the same proportion as that given to the men employed by the Government. All the contractors who carried on the work they had taken from Mr. Elliot, also increased the pay of their men, although they were themselves paid at the same rates as they received under the original contract. The work was being carried on energetically, and he believed that were it not for the addition of the 4th tier of cells it would have been completed within the time originally stipulated. Witness had made a statement of the work ten-