

in bringing them down unless some one moved for them.

Mr. DEACON contended that there was no necessity and no authority for the appointment of this officer, and endeavoured to show from the Public Accounts that the moneys paid out in the way of salary and expenses were much in excess of the amounts he recovered.

Hon. Mr. FRASER showed that the Public Accounts did not show the whole of the money accruing from this source.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said the duties of the Inspector were very onerous, and were well performed; and it was of the greatest importance that such an officer should be appointed, because some County Judges were very lax in seeing that the duties of the clerks of their courts were properly performed.

Mr. MEREDITH pointed out that the Bill relating to County Courts abolished stamps in these courts altogether, and this would therefore remove the necessity for such an officer as the Inspector.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said the suggestion of hon. friend would receive due consideration, and the Government would probably make some change in view of the fact pointed out.

After some further discussion, the vote was passed.

The vote of \$112,050 was then considered, the Treasurer explaining some differences in the details as compared to last year. After some discussion, chiefly upon what had become of the old fence around the Parliament Buildings, which had no connection with the vote, it was passed.

On the vote of \$206,060 for the purposes of the Courts, the Treasurer explained that last year a sum was voted for the payment of witnesses in criminal cases, but could not be used without Legislation upon the subject. The Government were not prepared to propose any such legislation this year, and therefore did not ask the vote.

Mr. CAMERON said the case of these witnesses was very hard, and he was quite surprised at the course of the Government.

Mr. PRINCE thought if the Opposition were in earnest, they should propose some means of meeting the requirements of the case. The late Government made no attempt to do so.

Mr. RYKERT complained that the Government had promised a measure dealing with this question when the appropriation was made last year, and they yet declared their intention of not doing anything this session.

On the details being discussed,

Mr. RYKERT complained of the amounts appropriated for Crown Counsel at criminal courts.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said these charges were regularly admitted, and he did his best personally to keep down the expenses in this direction.

Mr. CAMERON thought the acknowledged rate of payment was by no means too large, but thought sometimes the charges were too high and beyond the authorized amount.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said that the fees to Crown Counsel were, he was assured, so very low, that were it not for the prestige attaching to the conduct of the business, scarcely any good lawyer would be willing to undertake it.

The vote was passed after some further discussion.

The vote of \$500,200 for Education was being discussed when the Committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit gain.

The House then adjourned at mid-night.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

TUESDAY, March 10.

Mr. Clarke (Wellington)—On third reading of Bill (No. 13) to provide for voting by ballot at elections to the Legislative Assembly, that said Bill be not read a third time but that it be referred back to Committee of the Whole, with instructions to strike out sections 17, 18, and 19, and to insert the following in lieu thereof:—

(17) Immediately after the close of the poll in every polling place the Deputy Returning-officer shall, in the presence of the poll clerk and of such of the candidates or of their agents as may then be present, open the ballot box and proceed to count the votes as follows:—

(1) He shall examine the ballot papers, keeping them with their printed faces up.

wards, and shall take all proper precautions for preventing any person from seeing the numbers printed on the backs of the papers.

(2) Any ballot paper on which votes are given to more candidates than one, or on which anything except the number and the initials or name of the Deputy Returning-officer on the back is written or marked by which the voter can be identified, shall be void and shall not be counted.

(3) The Deputy Returning-officer shall endorse "rejected" on any ballot paper which he may reject as invalid, and shall endorse "rejection objected to" if an objection be made to his decision.

(4) The Deputy Returning-officer shall then count up the votes given for each candidate upon the ballot papers not rejected, and make up a written statement, in words as well as in figures, of the number of votes given for each candidate, and of the number of ballot papers rejected and not counted by him, which shall be made under the several heads:—

(1.) Name of electoral sub-division and date of election.

(2.) Number of votes for each candidate.

(3.) Papers wanting signature or initial of Deputy Returning-officer.

(4.) Voting for more candidates than entitled to.

(5.) Writing or mark by which voter could be identified.

(6.) Unmarked or void for uncertainty.

(7.) Unused, spoiled, and tendered ballot papers, ballot papers given to voters who afterwards returned the same declining to vote, and ballot papers taken from the polling place.

(8.) Upon the completion of such written statement it shall be forthwith signed by the Deputy Returning-officer, the poll clerk, and such of the candidates or their agents as may be present and desire to sign such statement.

(9.) Every Deputy Returning-officer, at the completion of the counting of votes after the close of the poll, shall, in the presence of the agents of the candidates, make up into separate packets, sealed with his own seal and the seals of such agents of the candidates as desire to fix their seals, and marked upon the outside with the date of the day of the election, and with the name of the Deputy Returning-officer, and of the polling sub-division officer.

(10.) The statement of votes given for each candidate and of the rejected ballot papers.

(11.) The used ballot papers which have been counted.

(12.) The rejected ballot papers.

(13.) The unused and spoiled ballot papers placed together; and

(14.) The voters' list, the commission of the Deputy Returning-officer and poll clerk, with their respective oaths of office, and the oaths in the forms N. and M. annexed thereto, and the counterfoils of the ballot papers; and

(15.) The tendered votes list; the list of votes marked by the Deputy Returning-officer, and a statement of the number of voters whose votes are so marked under the head "physical incapacity" and "unable to read." The Deputy Returning-officer shall forthwith deliver such packets to a person chosen by him for the purpose of delivering the same to the Returning-officer, and shall mention on the outside of the cover of each of the packets the name of the person to whom the same have been so delivered, and shall take a proper receipt therefor.

(16.) The Returning-officer, after he shall have received the ballot papers and statements before mentioned of the number of votes given in each polling-place, shall open such statements, and from them shall cast up the number for each candidate, and as soon as he has ascertained the result of the poll by counting the votes given to each candidate, forthwith declare to be elected the candidates having the highest number of votes; provided, that where an equality of votes is found to exist between the candidates, and the addition of a vote would entitle any of such candidates to be declared elected, the Returning-officer may give such additional vote, but shall not in any other case be entitled to vote at an election for which he is Returning-officer; and that subsection 4 of section 2 shall be struck out, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:—

(4) Within one week after the close of the election, each Deputy Returning-officer shall deliver the ballot box used in his polling sub-division to the clerk of the municipality within which such polling sub-division is situate, and the ballot boxes delivered to