

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Robinson—If the Government intend at an early date to commence the building of a Normal School at Kingston, on the land purchased for that purpose, or to improve and fence said lot.

Mr. Clarke—On third reading of Bill No. 42, that the words "or the town of Pembroke," be inserted after the word "Ottawa," in section 3, first line, page 2.

Mr. Prince gives notice that he will, on 3rd reading of the Bill (No. 94) to incorporate the South Western Railway Company of Canada, introduce the following clause, viz. :—

Any town, township, or village within said county which may have already advanced or granted moneys or otherwise aided any other exclusively steam railway company or companies or provisions of this Act, and wherever the words "county municipality," either in the General Railway Act or this Act, are made use of, they shall have reference to, and include only such towns, townships, and villages in said county, as have not already advanced or granted such aid; and further, it shall be lawful for the Reeves and Deputy-Reeves of such unencumbered minor municipalities, in said county, to exercise all the functions and powers of a county municipality, provided always that the remaining minor municipalities, in said county, shall be exempted from all taxation growing out of the objects of this Act.

Mr. Hardy—On Friday next—Order of the House for a return showing a list of all the Petitions presented to this House during the present Legislature praying that an Act may be passed by which witnesses in criminal cases may be entitled to witness fees.

Mr. Oliver—That when the House is in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 46, he will move to strike out clause 46, so far as the same relates to a certain by-law of the County of Oxford affecting the town of Woodstock and the township of North Norwich.

Mr. Scott—On third reading of Bill No. 10, intitled an Act to amend and consolidate the Acts relating to the Profession of Medicine and Surgery in Ontario, will move that the said Bill be referred back to a Committee of the whole House with an instruction to insert the following clause after section 42:—

No action at law for malpractice shall lie against any member of the said College, unless an examination of the case shall first be had before the Executive Committee of the Medical Council, before whom the party charged may appear and show cause, and in the event of a *prima facie* case being established to the satisfaction of said Committee, then a certificate of the President of the Council may be issued permitting proceedings to be instituted in law, to try and decide the case, and not otherwise—providing always that such proceedings be commenced within six months of the alleged malpractice having been committed.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, March 12.

The Public Accounts Committee re-assembled this morning, and proceeded with the examination of Mr. LANGMUIR, who stated, in reply to Mr. Cameron and Mr. Rykert, that he made arrangements for the furnishing of the Central Prison, after consulting with the hon. Provincial Secretary and the hon. Commissioner of Public Works. He stated that no one directed him to purchase the blankets and sheets from Mr. John Fraser, who was agent for a large linen house in Ireland. He had known him for several years. The linen sheeting came to \$1,717, and was ordered in April and delivered in May, and the grey blankets to \$1,312. These were ordered in June and delivered in September. The quilts amounted to \$450, and were ordered in June and delivered in September. Witness received orders from John Sandfield Macdonald some two years before he went out of power, to buy goods at the cheapest rates, whenever he wished. He did not receive any instructions from the Commissioner of Public Works. The purchase of the things was left to his own discretion. The blankets could not be purchased so well in Toronto as Montreal, and he considered that the blankets he purchased were about \$1 below the ordinary price. He considered it advisable to purchase the blankets at the time he did in order that they might be marked with the Prison mark.

The blankets and sheeting varied according to their width, and there was not much difference in the prices of blankets, between 1873 and 1872. A portion of the blankets he purchased in 1873 had been held over since 1872, and therefore he got them cheaper. With regard to the purchase of clothing, he said, he sent round to ask other merchants for their prices for making suits for the inmates of the prison, and he considered the price charged by Mr. Geo. Harcourt was very reasonable. He believed he showed the commissioner that it would be better not to tender for these clothes. With regard to the goods he purchased from A. R. McMaster & Co. for \$2,330 he made enquiry in July as to the best colour the suits of the prisoners should be. Mr. McMaster went to the extent of importing samples of the different colours used in prisons in England. He had enquired of other woollen drapers the prices of their goods. Mr. McMaster showed him some cloth of a snuff brown which, in quality and weight, he thought came up to what was required for prison purposes. He showed the sample to the Commissioner of Public Works, and recommended its purchase, and the order was afterwards given. The Commissioner did not suggest that he should obtain tenders for the work. The account of Bryce, McMurrich & Co. of \$567, was made up of eight doz. grey woollen pantaloons, and ten doz. grey shirts at \$10 per doz. He could not obtain the goods any cheaper from any other firm. He purchased \$1,512 worth of bedsteads, and no tenders were made for this work. He went to Montreal and visited the different manufactories, and found Clendinning's to be the largest in Canada. He saw several patterns of bedsteads which had been supplied to asylums and prisons, but considered them defective. He suggested a change in the pattern so as to increase the strength, and had two samples made and sent to Toronto. He showed them to the Commissioner of Public Works, and he approving of them, an order was given for 252 bedsteads, at \$6 each. These bedsteads were very heavy, weighing 66 lbs. He made a special arrangement for the freight at 2½ cents each. He sent to Marsh's to make enquiry as to the price of tin goods, but he found they were all imported, and not so good as those manufactured in Toronto. All the goods purchased in 1872 were stored in the rear of the Library. Before making the purchases he did not make a memorandum of the prices of the goods he required so that he could show it to the Commissioner. He went from store to store until he got the cheapest goods. When he ordered the goods he expected the Central Prison would be ready in July, 1873, but in January of 1873 he saw it could not be ready by July. It was not the custom to tender for dry-goods, and there would be considerable difficulty in describing the goods required. He explained that in his first estimate of the cost of the Central Prison, \$100,000, he merely estimated for the completion of the building for the occupation of prisoners, and intended that the prisoners should work upon the additional buildings. They could not make an accurate estimate until they knew what buildings were to be decided upon. When the trades were determined upon, from \$20,000 to \$25,000 had to be expended in fitting up the shops. In the estimates for 1872 large additional amounts had to be asked for to complete the buildings placed under contract. For instance, the sum of \$10,000 was asked for extra foundations. Not less than \$15,000 had been spent on this work. Certain drains were omitted altogether from the estimate, for which \$15,321 was asked. Then the cell doors and iron work had not been included, and for this purpose \$15,000 was asked. He believed these omissions were unintentional. The estimate of \$150,000 was, in fact, merely a nominal sum. The cost of water supply was omitted altogether. That was \$7,500, and no provision was made for laundries, coal sheds, water closets, etc., for which \$18,530 were required. He thought when he made the estimate that \$150,000 would be sufficient to complete the prison, but they found afterwards so many works had been omitted. These omissions, which were absolutely necessary, came to nearly \$80,000, and this sum was required to complete the buildings under contract and make them habitable; another large item of expenditure, \$15,000 or \$20,000 for cut stone jams to the cell doors and outside windows, in lieu of merely inserting a cut stone here and there to receive the iron work. He considered this alteration absolutely necessary. The plans were submitted to him for approval under the provisions of the Central Prison Act, and he pointed out what he considered many serious defects in the plans, and the absence of the stone jams was one of them. He considered it necessary to have the iron work and hinges all fastened in stone, so that the weight would