

which had been receiving his consideration, though he was not aware that his hon. friend had been giving the matter his attention or intended to introduce this Bill. He was afraid that not much would be accomplished by what the hon. gentleman proposed in his effort to equalize the business of the Courts. There was a large arrear of business in all the Courts, but a great deal had been done by the judges towards getting rid of the arrears which had been so long accumulating. The subject of short-hand reporting was one in which the judges felt considerably interested, and many members of the Bar likewise. The effect would doubtless be to somewhat shorten the proceedings, but there were some things to be carefully considered against the proposition, and one was the enormous expense of it. The matter was brought to his consideration very soon after he became Attorney-General, and on enquiry as to the cost he found that in the State of New York it was not far off \$100,000.

Mr. HODGINS—\$37,000.

Mr. MOWAT said the hon. gentleman might possibly have more accurate information than he had, but he had derived his from a learned judge. He had had an interview with the Benchers of the Law Society on this and other subjects, and that body appointed a small Committee on the question. If the Committee had acquired the information they were to have acquired they had not yet communicated it to him. He should be glad to find that there was some method by which at a moderate expense the growing business of the country could be kept from falling into arrears. He agreed with other hon. members that slow or late justice was gross injustice. In the neighbouring States there had been an enormous amount of arrears, and he thought his hon. friend from South Simcoo, who believed in a more perfect fusion of law and equity than now existed, would find that in those States where they had had complete fusion for years there was nothing to rejoice over. He would be very glad, however, to consider all these questions.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoo) said it seemed that the great law reforms for which the hon. gentleman and his friends claimed so much credit had not turned out to be law reforms at all.

Mr. MOWAT—They have.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said they had not heard of these complaints as to arrears in former years. Instead of further tinkering with the law, he should be glad if the Government would take the matter up seriously, having the experience of the Mother Country before them, in order to prevent the long delays which were now occurring. The delays in the United States were owing to their peculiar method of proceeding.

Mr. CROOKS pointed out that the delays now occurring were not owing to the Attorney-General's Act, but to circumstances which existed long anterior to it, which were owing to a blind imitation of what formerly prevailed in the Courts of Common Law at Westminster. There were now more simple regulations in the Courts. He had no hesitation in saying that the Attorney-General's Administration of Justice Act had cut the Gordian knot which lawyers in England had for years been trying to untie (hear, hear), and he asked the House and the country to be patient for a short time, when the beneficial results of that Act would be shown. He was convinced that the effect of the new Judicature Act in England would not be what was anticipated. He was quite prepared to accept the principle of complete fusion, but so far its working out in practice appeared to be a failure. He thought that by patiently waiting until the effect of the present Act had been seen, and by amending it from time to time as was found necessary, they would by-and-by arrive at a substantial reform which would be simple, would be understood by everybody, and would be inexpensive.

The Bill was then read the first time.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following Bills were severally introduced and read the first time:—

Mr. Hardy—A Bill respecting railway traffic.

Mr. Hay—A Bill to confer upon municipal corporations additional power in respect to fences bordering upon public highways.

Mr. Hardy—A Bill to amend the Registry Act.

Also—A Bill to amend the Division Courts

Act.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adoption of the report of the Committee appointed to strike the Standing Committees.

Mr. MACDOUGALL asked that the adoption of the report be postponed until tomorrow when the hon. member for East Toronto would be present.

Mr. MOWAT agreed to defer the motion.

SUPPLY.

Mr. CROOKS moved the House into Committee of Supply.

Mr. LAUDER said they had not yet received the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, the report of the Inspector of Asylums and Prisons, or that on Immigration. They had only received that of the Commissioner of Public Works to day, and surely they were not to be asked to vote the supplies for the various Departments without the reports to show how the last money voted had been expended. He hoped the hon. Treasurer would not press his motion to day.

Mr. CROOKS said the desire of the Government was simply to get through as many as possible of those items that would not be disputed, and to which there would be no objection, before next week, when the press of legislation would be pretty heavy. (Hear, hear) They were only doing the very same as had been done in former years.

Mr. LAUDER observed that it would be impossible to say where objections would be taken until the reports he had mentioned were before them. He thought that at least no supplies should be voted until they were in possession of the report of the Department of Crown Lands.

Mr. CROOKS said it was quite impossible for any Government to go through the public business on the principle contended for by the hon. member for East Grey. It was sometimes impossible to get some of the reports—that of immigration for instance—until near the end of the session, in order to include the returns from the outlying agencies. Then again, with regard to the report of the Educational Department, the plan proposed by the hon. gentleman would be quite impossible, as hon. members had not yet received the report of that Department for the year 1874; and surely it could not be expected that the appropriations would have to wait until the report for 1875 was before the House. The hon. gentleman had now raised a question which had never been brought up before. The members of the Government having charge of the several Departments would supply the fullest information to hon. members upon items upon which they might ask for it.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said the plan of voting supplies before the reports of the various Departments were brought down was certainly "going it blind" in the matter of expending money. He could see, however, that as they were in the early part of the session—and so far as the Government were concerned they had little in the shape of legislation to go on with—it would be saving the time of the House to go on with those items which it was probable would not be disputed, such as the annual normal expenditure of the various Departments. But to ask them to discuss the transactions of the great spending Departments—their peculiar transactions, he might say—upon the mere statements of hon. gentlemen opposite, who might keep back what pleased them, would be, so far as his Parliamentary experience was concerned, unprecedented, whatever might be the practice of the House. The sooner a law was passed to have the date of the assembling of Parliament fixed for each year, the better it would be for the House and country. He could see no great difficulty in passing those items in the estimates which were the same as in previous years. He believed, however, that the usual practice of the House of Commons was to pass the estimates in the latter part of the session, when the fullest information was before the House, and by the operations of the Committees being reported in the public journals, the country could see exactly how the expenditures of the Government were made. Information was not only received from the reports of the Departments and from members of the Government, but from outside sources.

Mr. MOWAT said the observations of hon. gentlemen opposite would have more properly been made upon some item of the estimates with regard to which light might