

Mr. Patterson (Essex)—On Friday next—Bill entitled an Act to extend the rights and remedies of mechanics and others entitled to liens on chattels.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, Jan 24.

The Public Accounts Committee met this morning, Mr. Clarke (Wellington) in the chair.

The matter of the supplies for colonization was again taken up.

Mr. Cashman was recalled and examined by Mr. Crooks. He submitted the statements ordered yesterday. He also put in a synopsis of the tenders for pork and flour in 1876, with the initials of the Commissioner, showing which were approved. The prices of these articles varied considerably, but generally advanced towards the end of the season. These tenders were sent in response to an advertisement.

In answer to Mr. Deacon, the witness said he believed the advertisement was inserted in *THE GLOBE* and the *Mail*. He produced a poster which had been issued calling for tenders.

In reply to the Chairman, the witness said pork and flour were generally bought in the winter as the cheapest season; the groceries were bought just as they were needed through the season; he had compared the current prices published in *THE GLOBE* and *Mail* with those paid by him, and found they were generally correct; he found the quotation for medium young Hyson tea on 28th May, 1874, was from 60c to 75c; he was paying Jaffray from 55c to 60c on that date; on May 20th, 1875, the same article was quoted at from 65c to 75c, golden syrup at from 60c to 62½, and standard syrup, at from 57½ to 58; he was then paying Mr. Jaffray 55c for golden syrup. On the 18th May, 1874, the *Mail* quoted teas at from 50c to 60c; on the 20th May, 1875, the same paper quoted Young Hyson medium at 48c to 58c, and golden syrup—which was the quality they purchased—at from 55c to 59c.

In answer to Mr. Hardy, the witness said he thought goods could generally be bought for cash at less than the quoted prices; some, however, were very close, such as syrups.

In answer to Mr. Merrick, he stated that the prices quoted were generally understood to be credit prices, subject to a discount of 2½ per cent. There were tenders for the pork in 1874; the price accepted was \$18 50 for 150 barrels; about 60 barrels over the contract number were purchased at \$21 to \$26; the contract was made early in the spring; the extra barrels were bought as wanted; pork advanced almost every week from the making of the contract. In 1875 Mr. Bridgland made the arrangement.

In answer to Mr. Ferris, witness said he always tried to get the best value. The tenders for pork in 1874 ran from \$18 40 up to \$19 25.

In answer to Mr. Crooks, he said the Commissioner had the final decision in these matters.

The witness's evidence was then read over and corrected, and the Committee adjourned.

PRIVATE BILLS COMMITTEE.

In the Private Bills Committee the Trinity Medical School Bill was discussed at some length and adjourned. The Orange Incorporation Bills were postponed until tomorrow.

RAILWAY COMMITTEE.

In the Railway Committee, Mr. Pardee in the chair, the Credit Valley, and Toronto, Grey, and Bruce, and Leamington, Cumber and St. Clair Railway Bills passed with some amendments. The discussion of the Toronto Street Railway Bill was postponed till Tuesday. The Credit Valley Railway Bill proposes to compel the City Council on a petition being presented to submit a by-law to the people.