

of the House. (Hear, hear.) The matter had been referred to last session more than once, and a general desire had been expressed that such a distribution should be made. He must remember that throughout the country, everybody could not afford or was not inclined to get a copy; and it was important that there should be various places throughout the municipalities where they could be consulted, and as the magistrates were generally the best known men in the community, the general interests could not be better served than by supplying each magistrate with a copy. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Mowat) agreed with the hon. gentleman as to the importance of supplying the magistrates with copies of the criminal laws of the Dominion, and he would only say that he had opened a correspondence with the Dominion Government with a view of securing such an arrangement, and that the result was that the distribution would soon be made. (Cheers.) He thought the hon. gentleman in speaking of the magistracy had not done them justice, and that it was not, as he had stated, the exception to find them sufficiently educated for the duties they were called upon to perform. (Hear, hear.) He believed that the reverse was the exception. He concluded by congratulating the House that the Governor had been able to bring a bill of fare before them to which so little objection could be made as had been made to-day. (Loud cheers.)

The second paragraph was then carried.

On the third,

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) said that some of the references to the prosperity of the country might be justified by the facts; but there was little or no information to show that this prosperity existed. He believed, with regard to the lumber interest, that it was not quite true that it was in a prosperous condition, for according to his information the banks of the country were carrying nearly all the capital invested in that interest. He proceeded to a general criticism of the Speech, and referring to educational matters, said that the events of the past year had fully justified the fears that some members of the Opposition had expressed that the change in the Education Department would be a benefit to our school system. It would appear that the Minister, instead of using the power he possessed as head of the Department, instead of devoting his time and attention legitimately to the discharge of his duties, had allowed matters in his Department to go almost as the officers under him might direct. When a theft of examination papers had taken place the hon. gentleman had not investigated the irregularity himself, but had appointed a Commissioner to perform that duty. And they found also that when charges affecting the conduct of gentlemen under the control of the Minister had been preferred, a judge had been taken from the Bench and appointed as a Commissioner to perform a duty which was entirely within the province of the Minister himself. He (Mr. Macdougall) objected to this government by Commission. The present Administration had distinguished themselves above all other Administrations by assigning their administrative duties to Commissioners. In England, some years ago, an important discussion had taken place on this very question of government by Commission, and he thought the arguments which had been advanced against that system applied with peculiar force to this country. He thought the six Commissioners who formed the Government ought to be able to preside over their own departments, and to discover and rectify abuses if they existed. He would like to know how much these two Commissions had cost the country. He believed it would be their duty to constitute a Committee of the House to enquire into the matter. They found that in the first year of the Minister's tenure of office he could not undertake the supervision of the officers of his own Department, but had brought down a judge from the Bench to perform his duties, and the result was a white-washing report. The evidence had been taken in a most irregular manner, witnesses being allowed only to come forward as they liked. Did the Commissioner fancy that material witnesses

and be likely to come forward and give evidence which might expose them to theasure of the Minister and to the risk of losing their places? They found also that the Minister of Education himself had appeared before the judge and made a statement. He had read carefully the report of the Commissioner, and he found that, instead of its being a judgment, or such a report as one might have expected from the evidence, it was the argument of an advocate. It was an argument justifying, defending, and excusing the charges made against them, and yet it was expected that the representatives of the people should think there had been nothing wrong. The mode of investigation pursued in this case, he would take occasion to say, was unconstitutional, and most certainly inexpedient. The honourable gentleman opposite and his colleagues ought to have given their personal attention to the case and investigated the charges themselves. It was an abnegation of the proper duties and functions of his Department for a Minister to proceed in this manner, and whitewash the misdoings of a public officer. The facts before the House plainly showed that this political experiment had not worked as satisfactorily as was claimed. Who were the members of the Central Committee? Strong partisans of the hon. gentleman and his friends. He was glad to see that THE GLOBE, that great authority on matters political and otherwise, did not quite concur in the sweetened report prepared by the learned judge. With regard to other matters referred to in the Address, he was pleased to hear that the public affairs of the Province had gone on successfully, but he did not think hon. gentlemen opposite deserved all the credit for this satisfactory condition of things. Many legislative measures had been improved and assisted in their passage by members of the Opposition, and he thought the Legislature as a whole deserved whatever credit might be due. In regard to the revised statutes he believed there was still room for reform. There was a general impression abroad, especially among non-professional men, that it would be well for the country to follow the example of the mother country with respect to judicial reform, and he hoped that the hon. gentleman would submit a final measure to carry out the principles which had been introduced into the law in a crude way and so make a uniform and complete system. The country would rejoice in a reform of that kind, which he believed would be of great advantage to the people. There was a strong feeling that our legal system was too complicated and extensive, and any steps taken towards its simplification would be welcomed. If time permitted he might mention several other measures which might very well receive a share of attention. The use of prison labour outside of prisons ought to be confined to actual criminals; and as for the measure relating to landlords and tenants, he did not know what the proposed change was, but presumed it was something very trifling. After referring to the proposed measure relating to joint stock companies, Mr. Macdougall resumed his seat, it being six o'clock.

Mr. MOWAT said that he understood that the members on both sides of the House were desirous that they should not sit tonight, and he therefore moved the adjournment of the debate and of the House till to-morrow.

The motion was carried, and the House adjourned.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. LAUDER—On Monday next—Enquiry of Ministry whether or not a Commission was issued during the recess to enquire into matters pertaining to internal economy of the Central Prison, and, if such a Commission was appointed, whether said Commission made any report.

Mr. MOWAT—On Friday next—That it be an Order of the House that the business of each day shall commence with prayers; that a Special Committee be appointed to consider and report upon a form of prayer, and upon other arrangements in