

Mr. BELL said it was to a certain extent. The next item was building society stock to the extent of \$4,400,000.

Mr. FRASER—That, too, is jumped at.

Mr. BELL said it necessarily was, because these matters could not be got at exactly; but he believed they were under the actual amounts. It was the duty of the Government to compel banks and building societies to state the amounts of their stock. He quoted a statement of the Hon. Edward Blake to the effect that every person should contribute from his means to pay taxes in proportion to the advantages received, and said that if the different properties which made up that \$40,000,000 were assessed, the city rate, instead of being two cents on the dollar, would be less than one cent. He then mentioned the remaining items which made up the exemptions in the city of Toronto to the amount of \$41,141,980.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN found, in his experience, that there was a great deal of difference of opinion on this subject. He thought it was a little cowardly for a Government to decline to bring down a measure, but to throw out a bait with the object of finding the opinion of the majority of the House. He argued that to tax Government property would be merely to take money out of one pocket and put it into another at a great expense.

It being six o'clock, the hon. member took his seat.

Several hon. members calling for the question,

Mr. SPEAKER asked the hon. member who spoke last if he desired to continue.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN—I shall resume the argument after recess. (Laughter.)

The Speaker then left the chair.

After recess,

Mr. O'SULLIVAN continued. He said that the interests of Toronto obtained too much attention in this House, to the detriment of country constituents. There were a large number of hon. gentlemen, residents of Toronto, who ostensibly represented rural constituencies, but really the city of Toronto. He went on to attack the Government for not bringing down a definite measure, and said if they vacated their seats to the Opposition, the latter would soon show them a measure that would be satisfactory to the House and the country. (Laughter.)

Mr. SINCLAIR—What is it?

Mr. O'SULLIVAN said he was not disposed to announce their policy just yet (renewed laughter), but if the Government was too cowardly or mean (Order) to bring down a policy the Opposition would be prepared to do so.

The motion was then carried.

SUPPLY.

On motion of Mr. WOOD, the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. Clarke (Wellington) in the chair.

The following items were passed without discussion:—

Lieut.-Governor's office, \$3,350.

Executive Council and Attorney-General's Department, \$14,980.

Treasury Department, \$16,600.

On the item of "Secretary and Registrar's Office, \$26,025,"

Mr. LAUDER asked the meaning of a remark made in the Speech from the Throne to the effect that the returns "approached very nearly to the English standard."

Mr. HARDY said that the English vital statistics showed the percentage of births, marriages, and deaths in every thousand of the population. In the reports made in this Province the percentages were approaching very nearly the English standard, showing that the Act was now working almost perfectly.

Mr. LAUDER—What is the percentage now?

Mr. HARDY said from memory that the percentages were: births, 22 in a thousand; deaths, 21, and marriages were a little higher than either. The average of marriages exceeded the English average; that of births and deaths did not quite approach the English average.

Mr. LAUDER complained that the reports of the Registrar's Office were not brought down before the estimates relating to it were passed.

Mr. HARDY said that the delay was owing to the work of the office having been behind for the last four or five years, owing to arrearages left by the late Government.

Mr. CAMERON thought this was a Department from which the country had not derived benefit commensurate with the amount expended on it.

Mr. WILSON disputed that point, and thought the Registrar's Department had been more efficiently carried on last year than in any previous year.

Mr. MACDOUGALL asked the Provincial Secretary if the Registrar's returns of births, marriages, and deaths, showing a number of totals, could not be laid before the House.

Mr. HARDY said he would endeavour in a couple of days to meet the hon. gentleman's suggestion.

Mr. MERRICK asked why there was an increase in the License and Administration of Justice accounts in the Secretary's Department over that of 1877.

Mr. FRASER explained that a portion of the account was formerly charged to the Treasurer's Department, but was now transferred to the Secretary's Department, and a corresponding decrease would be found in the amount appropriated to the former.

Mr. MERRICK said that last year the appropriation under the head of the Registrar-General's Branch had been less than the actual expenditure, and still the same amount was asked this year.

Mr. HARDY said that if the hon. member would consider the increases for clerks, which had already been explained, he would find that the estimates were considerably within the margin.

Mr. LAUDER said that the Government had promised to reduce the amounts for subscriptions to newspapers. There should be no papers subscribed for except for the reading-room. Every Department appeared to subscribe for every Grit paper from Sarnia to Ottawa.

Mr. WOOD said a very large reduction had been effected in his Department and in others, and it was still going on.

Mr. WIDDIFIELD said—Mr. Chairman, I do not rise to discuss the question of newspapers, but to announce to the House that the Hon. Alfred Jones, Minister of Militia, is undoubtedly elected for Halifax. (Ministerial cheers, and cries of "Carried.")

On the item Department of Public Works, \$20,172,

Mr. CAMERON said he noticed some increases in that Department which he thought the Commissioner should explain.

Mr. FRASER said that the only increase in the Department was for the salary of the official secretary. Not only was it too low at first, but the work of the Department had increased enormously since Confederation. The cost of living was also much greater of late years.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said that few new buildings were going up this year.

Mr. FRASER said that, nevertheless, they were going on with buildings which were in course of construction.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said he thought there was a sufficient number of architects in the Department without employing outside ones, which, he observed, had been done.

Mr. FRASER said that it was almost invariably the custom to employ architects other than officers of the Department for new public buildings, simply because those in the Department had all the work they could do.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN contended that the time had come when new Parliament buildings should be erected.

Mr. GRANGE compared the estimates for 1871 for the Public Works Department with those for 1878, and asked an explanation of the increases.

Mr. FRASER pointed out the increased amount of work now performed, and said that furthermore the comparison was an unfair one, as the method of charging was different.