

tended largely, as many of them were, by pupils outside, who contributed nothing towards their support.

Mr. CROOKS said that the Act provided machinery which acted as a leverage in obviating this difficulty.

Mr. BALLANTYNE said that this machinery was practically inoperative, and that the arrangement should be changed fundamentally.

Mr. HAY spoke of the same difficulty, and advocated a change in the law.

Mr. CURRIE said he thought the High Schools had not very much reason to complain, as they received \$16 per head, and this amount was supplemented by the municipalities. He thought that perhaps it would be better to have fewer schools, if we could have them, of a higher character.

The item then passed.

On the item Inspection of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, \$7,800,

Mr. CROOKS said that some criticism had arisen with regard to alleged partiality on the part of High School Inspectors, through their accepting the hospitality of friends among the High School masters and others while performing their duties. He thought that they should be placed in a position which would remove even the suspicion of partiality, and he therefore proposed to allow them \$3 per day for maintenance, and an additional amount for extra expenses when detailed vouchers were shown.

Mr. BOLLTER approved of the increased amount to be allowed to Inspectors, as he thought it would act as an incentive upon them to visit schools in the back parts of the country.

The item then passed.

On the item, Departmental Examinations, \$11,400.

Mr. CROOKS explained that the present duties of the Central Committee of Examiners—who were now eight in number, comprising the Chairman, three High School Inspectors, and four Public School Inspectors—included the preparation of examination papers for first, second, and third class Public School teachers and Normal School students, and for High School entrance and intermediate examinations, personally conducting the examination of first-class certificates, and of Normal School students, and reading and valuing the answers, and also of candidates for second-class certificates, and the examination and reporting on library and prize books. Referring to the recent frauds in connection with examination papers, he said they had hardly been entirely unanticipated on his part, owing to the laxity with which, as he had frequently observed, the examinations had been conducted under the system of local Boards of Examiners. He pointed out that under these circumstances it became necessary to have a method of examination in regard to all the grades of certificates which should be beyond suspicion, and explained the present mode of examination. It had been found necessary to engage seventeen sub-examiners instead of the small number formerly employed, on the principle that it was better to have a large number conducting the examinations concurrently than a small number working for a more extended period. Though the result of the altered system had been to increase this particular item under the consideration of the Committee, it had very largely reduced, and relieved the County Councils of, the large expense involved when local Boards conducted the examinations. He was proceeding to refer to the charges against the Central Committee, which had been referred for investigation to Mr. Justice Patterson, when,

It being six o'clock the Committee rose and reported. (Cries of "Adjourn," "Adjourn.")

THE SCOTT ESTATE.

Mr. Hardy presented a return relative to the estate of the late W. A. Scott.

Mr. MOWAT said that it being evidently the wish of both sides of the House that they should not sit to-night he would move the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at six o'clock.

CORRECTION.

In our report of the debates of Wednesday last, instead of "lost on a division," the word *withdrawn* should have been used, in reference to Mr. Dawson's motion for a Select Committee to consider the resolutions in respect to the readjustment in the representation of Algoma.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Meredith—On Tuesday next—Resolution, "That it is not expedient that any member of the House of Commons or the Senate of Canada should be appointed to any office or employment in the service of the Government of Ontario at the nomination of the Crown or of the Lieutenant-Governor, to which any salary, or any fee, allowance, or endowment in lieu of any salary, from the Crown or from the Province is attached."

Mr. Sinclair—On Monday next—An address for the report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the abstraction of ballot-papers and other public documents from the Election Court for the trial of the election petition for the county of Lincoln, and other documents relating to the same.

Mr. Currie—On Tuesday next—Bill to amend "The Assessment Act."

Hon. Mr. Wood—On Tuesday next—Bill to aid the construction of tile and stone drainage works in township municipalities.

Mr. Bishop—On Tuesday next—Bill to amend the Act respecting line fences.

Mr. Bell—On Tuesday next—Address for a statement showing the amount of Provincial money on deposit in any of the banks, the name of such bank or banks, the respective amounts so deposited, the amount drawing interest and at what rate, also the rate of interest received on deposits by the Province in each year from the year 1871 to 1877, both inclusive.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES.

COMMITTEE ON TAX EXEMPTIONS.

The Select Committee appointed to consider the question of the exemptions from taxation met this morning. There were present Messrs. Hardy, Wood, Bell, Deacon, Ferris, Graham, Harkin, Hay, Hodgins, Lauder, McMahon, Meredith, Miller, O'Donohue, Patterson (Essex), Robinson, Wills, Williams.

On motion of Mr. Wood, Mr. Ferris was elected Chairman.

Mr. MEREDITH moved that the Attorney-General should be requested to appear and give to the Committee what information he had on the subject.

Mr. LAUDER seconded the motion.

Mr. HARDY suggested that it would be better to appoint a sub-Committee to prepare a series of questions for the purpose of eliciting information. He thought some such course as that should be pursued, so that they might have the answers to the questions sent in in good time. If necessary he would move to that effect.

Mr. WOOD said he supposed the Committee would deal not only with the question of exemptions, but with that of taxation for local purposes generally.

Mr. HODGINS thought it would be well to look over the statute and consider what they should do with the various exemptions *seriatim*.

Mr. HAY did not concur with the suggestion to send a series of questions out into the country, as members of the House could give all the information necessary as to public feeling on the question outside. He thought the Attorney-General was correct in saying that, though there had been a large number of petitions from the country, they did not really express the sense of the people on the subject.

Mr. LAUDER said that from that point of view the proper place for the discussion was on the floor of the House.

Mr. MEREDITH said he should be sorry if the opinions expressed on the floor of the House on this question were those of the country at large.

Mr. LAUDER thought that they had as much information on the subject now as if they were to sit for a month. He would suggest that the Committee report at once, recommending the Government to bring in a Bill dealing with the question.

Mr. HODGINS, after reading the order of reference to the Committee, moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. HARDY, "That the different classes of exemptions provided for in the statute be first considered by the Committee, and that it be determined what classes be allowed to stand as now fixed by statute, and as to what classes of exemption further inquiry should be made by this Committee."

Mr. MEREDITH withdrew his motion.

Mr. DEACON thought the motion went too far. He was in favour of the first part—that the different classes of exemptions provided by statute be first considered by the Committee.

The motion was carried, and the Committee proceeded to consider *seriatim* the different clauses of exemptions provided for by statute.