

ment, but of the officers of the House. He presumed that any complaints should be made to Mr. Speaker.

After recess,

The House went into Committee on

PRIVATE BILLS.

The House proceeded to consider the "Bill to incorporate the Ontario Ladies' College," of which Mr. Deroche took charge in absence of Mr. Brown.

Mr. CREIGHTON protested against proceeding when the reprinted Bill had not been distributed to members, in accordance with rule 44.

Mr. MEREDITH thought the Bill should not be marked reprinted on the Orders when it was not distributed.

The Bill was then amended, and reported.

SUPPLY.

The House went into Committee on Supply.

On the item, "Allowance to late Superintendent of Education," under item miscellaneous expenditure, \$4,000,

Mr. DEACON urged that it would be better to have a Bill framed giving this sum to the late superintendent annually during his life. It would leave him freer to give expression to his views.

Mr. GIBSON thought the sum was too high, and the precedent of giving the full salary on retirement was a bad one to establishment. The Government should have brought in a superannuation scheme with their Civil Service Bill. If the superintendent had followed out his own plans for the teachers in regard to his own salary it would have been unnecessary for him to say a word.

Mr. DEACON thought it would be well for this matter to be secured in future against discussion.

Mr. DAWSON spoke briefly in favour of having a Superannuation Bill, and approved the vote.

In reply to Mr. MEREDITH,

Mr. WOOD explained that some \$9,000 of insurance premiums on the three-year plan fell due this year.

Mr. MILLER thought that it would be better for the Government to insure its own property. He was much of a mind with the hon. member for North Huron regarding the allowance to the late Superintendent of Education. It was too large, though he would approve the rewarding of him in the same manner as judges. He would rather see the matter settled by a Bill.

Mr. LAUDER asked what was going to be done with the \$4,000 for expenses re Ontario-Quebec settlement. Last year the bulk of this vote had been given to Hon. Mr. Mills for compiling a pamphlet, no doubt interesting in itself. He thought money should not be so expended on blue books.

Mr. MOWAT said there was no obligation on the hon. member to read these blue books. This one was an admirable one, and he thought they had got it compiled very cheaply. It was compiled for the use of the arbitrators. He hoped the question would soon be settled, but during the coming year there would necessarily be some expenses. Hon. members would remember that these expenses were actual outlay, and included nothing for the county judges.

Mr. DAWSON said that he had read all these blue books, and they would be of immense advantage to the Province. They displayed great discernment.

In reply to Mr. Meredith,

Mr. MOWAT said it was understood at the time that the county judges should not be paid, but it had been thought it would be desirable to give them some little acknowledgment, such as a gold medal.

In reply to Mr. Creighton,

Mr. MOWAT said that it was though desirable that the consolidated statutes should be stereotyped. This would cost a little less than \$2,100. It would also be desirable to have a supplementary volume for use of the public, which would cost about \$1,500.

Mr. CREIGHTON thought it a good idea to stereotype the statutes, and suggested to have the index in each volume.

Mr. CAMERON said that he understood it was the intention of the Government to grant copies of the statutes to the members of the press, which he considered a bid for popularity. He thought the Government had been exceeding their duty in giving the statutes to the magistrates. He contended that the Government was not following the proper procedure in asking for the grant when the Act provided for an Order in Council being first made and then ratified by the House. He thought the medal proposed to be given to judges would not, by them, be considered of much consequence. He thought it might be better for them to insure their own property.

Mr. PAXTON was in favour of the Government insuring its own property.

Mr. MEREDITH thought that there were as strong reasons for retaining the old plan as against it.

The item was then passed.

CENTRAL PRISON.

On the item of \$86,115 for the Central Prison,

Mr. WOOD made some explanations with regard to the relations of the Government with the Canada Car Company, and with regard to the appointment of the recent Prison Labour Commission. He explained the provisions of the agreement made between the Government and the Company in January, 1876, by which it was arranged that the claim of the Government on the Company for \$14,090 for the hire of prisoners should be deferred for two years, and that the Government should pay the Company \$15,545 for work performed and materials provided. After full discussion the House ratified that agreement. One clause provided that the Government might appoint a Commission to enquire into the value of prison labour. The Car Company complained that the 55c per day which they paid for each prisoner was too high. A Commission was appointed, composed of gentlemen of very high character, the Hon. Mr. Howland, Mr. Noxon, and Mr. Brockway, who had founded an institution similar to the Central Prison at Detroit. Their report placed the value at 42 cents per day, and recommended that for prisoners whose term expired within one year, 40 cents should be paid, and for those whose term exceeded that period, 50 cents. The amount due to the Government by the Company to November last, according to the original contract, was \$45,425 80, which they declared it would ruin them to pay. The Government, feeling that they should act as fairly and liberally with the Company as possible, did not insist on the payment of the full amount according to the original contract, but took from the Company, the new machinery used in connection with the new industry of the prison, and a proportion of raw material and manufactured goods to make up their indebtedness at the reduced rates. The Government felt a responsibility so far as the prisoners were concerned, and it became necessary to give them employment, either by the Government furnishing them with raw material, or by entering into an agreement with others to do so and to take the goods. The latter would be the simpler method, but the Government failed to find any Company which would agree to take the goods and pay the Government for piece-work. They had, therefore, no course but to take the work into their own hands, and they asked the House for \$25,000 for material. They proposed to adopt a system which was carried out successfully in some prisons of the United States. It was proposed to find out, so far as possible, what a prisoner could do in a day, as to turning out pails, brooms, &c., and to expect each prisoner to do that amount. If a prisoner worked hard, and turned out more than the average quantity, the difference went towards a fund which he should receive after the expiration of his term, and if he spoiled any material, it would be charged against him. It was also intended to take advantage of an Act passed by the Ottawa Government, allowing