

Commissioner of Public Works knew he was wrong in asking for costs to be guaranteed. Besides, that gentleman knew that Mr. Blake claimed to have secured the right of suing the Crown to individuals.

In reply to members,

Mr. WOOD said that the new machinery had been taken over and the balance had been taken in raw material. No machinery had been taken over that was not of use. The manager of the Company was now being employed by the Government, which had not yet decided upon how it would dispose of its articles. It would be very unfair and impolitic for the Government to use public funds for competition in trade. The Government was at present carrying on the industry.

In reply to Mr. Cameron,

Mr. FRASER said that they had been able to save about \$25,000 on the estimates of the cost of the Hamilton Asylum. In every instance in his department the contracts are awarded to the lowest tenderer.

In reply to Mr. Lauder,

Mr. CROOKS said that the item, \$5,000 to the Bank of Commerce to cover advances to the School of Agriculture, properly was chargeable to the year 1874. There was some irregularity in the transaction.

After some further discussion the Committee rose and reported.

The House adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Hon. Mr. Hardy—On Friday next—Bill to amend the License Act, and for other purposes.

Mr. Creighton—On Friday next—Enquiry of Ministry whether the Government intend during this session to amend the Liquor License Act, as to prevent as far as possible the abuse of the privilege accorded to druggists of selling liquor in packages of not more than twelve ounces.

Mr. Hodgins—On Friday next—Bill respecting judicial statistics. Also, on Friday next, order of the House for the report on the inspection of the Division Courts in the county towns during 1877.

By Mr. Dawson—On Monday next—For leave to introduce a Bill to amend subsection 4 of section 7, of chapter 10, of the Revised Statutes of Ontario by striking out the words, "Who do not reside among Indians."

#### PRINTING COMMITTEE.

TORONTO, Wednesday, Feb. 20.

The Printing Committee held their first meeting this morning, Mr. Clarke (Wellington) in the chair. There were also present Messrs. Fraser, Macdougall (Simcoe), O'Donoghue, Boulter, Deroche, Creighton, and Grange.

Mr. Geo. M. Rose, of the printing firm of Messrs. Hunter, Rose, & Co., appeared before the Committee, and gave evidence under oath with reference to the printing, binding, etc., done by that firm for the Government. He submitted a written statement showing the advance in 1873 to have been 9 5-7 per cent.; in 1874, ten and four-tenths per cent.; in 1875, ten and three-fifths per cent.; in 1876, eleven per cent.; in 1877, eleven and one sixth per cent. The aggregate amounts were—

Year.	Advance.	Total.
1873 .....	\$4,417 10	\$45,407 82
1874 .....	4,958 24	38,888 24
1875 .....	3,080 47	29,181 94
1876 .....	3,667 74	33,277 45
1877 .....	3,982 00	35,722 68

He explained that the Government now supplied the paper, instead of the firm supplying it at the contractor's prices. The charge for the composition was 28c per thousand ems, and now his firm was paying compositors 32 cents per thousand. A form of long primer containing 18,000 ems would cost \$5 76 for setting, but besides this they had to pay 2 cents per thousand ems for making up the pages, or 36 cents per form; imposing, 3 cents per page, or 24 cents per form; making up furniture, 36 cents; total, \$6 72; proof-reading, proportion of non-producers' salaries, interest on capital, wear and tear, office expenses, &c., he calculated as 50 per cent. of the price paid the compositor, making in addition \$3 36, or a total of

\$10 08. Calculating the contract price to be 40 cents per 1,000 ems, the Government was charged \$7 20, so that the firm sustained a loss of \$2 28. At the time of the strike they locked their men out. They afterwards offered to share the profits and losses on the work with the men but the men declined the offer because the firm would not exempt them from loss. The Union discriminated against their office, and tried to compel them to pay night prices for day work. The Union having lately relapsed to old prices the office was declared open. Their employees enjoyed a three hours holiday on Saturday for which they were paid.

The Committee then adjourned.