

branch and the Registrar-General's branch had been, in addition, included in that Department since 1871. The work in the license branch itself was equal to that of the general Department.

Mr. LAUDER contended that there was nothing to justify the increase of Departmental work. He argued at some length to show that the increase of the number of letters forwarded or received by the Departments was due to the mal-legislation of the present Ministry.

The motion was carried.

"THE ONTARIO GAZETTE."

Mr. MERRICK moved for a return showing the annual cost of the *Official Gazette*, the annual amount of work done for the Government, and also for the general public, the amount received as subscriptions to the same, the amount paid Hunter, Rose, & Co. in each year, and the amounts retained by them, if any. The return to embrace each year from 1870 to 1877, inclusive. In support of the motion he referred to a general belief that Messrs. Hunter, Rose, & Co. were holding back on account of the *Gazette* large sums of money.

Mr. FRASER said that evidence had been taken elsewhere under oath that no such sums had been held back.

Mr. MERRICK stated that he had been informed that large sums of money had been retained by that firm for the purchase of type.

Mr. FRASER replied that the only sum held was \$7,000 for the Revised Statutes, which was returned the next year.

Mr. MERRICK said that the Government were to blame for not having settled the dispute with Hunter, Rose, & Co.

Mr. FRASER suggested that the figures 1867 be inserted instead of 1870.

The motion as amended was carried.

INSPECTION OF DIVISION COURTS.

Mr. HODGINS moved for the report on the inspection of Division Courts in county towns during 1877. He briefly explained that the report was in the hands of the Government, and he trusted that it would be brought down.

Mr. CAMERON did not know why this report had not been brought down as well as the other report on Division Courts, unless there had been a purpose in view in that respect.

The motion was carried.

COMMISSION OF THE PEACE.

Mr. GRANGE moved for a return showing the names of all magistrates at present on the Commission of the Peace, the date of their several appointments, the date of their qualification, and the counties for which they are respectively appointed. He said that as perambulating magistrates were to be appointed, it would be as well to allow the vacancies which occurred in the Commission of the Peace to go unfilled.

The motion was carried.

THE GENERAL HOSPITALS.

Mr. GIBSON moved for a return showing, so far as the General Hospitals of Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, Hamilton, St. Catharines, and London are concerned, amounts received for the year 1877 from each municipality in payment of patients' maintenance, and from patients resident of Toronto and London; income from property belonging to Hospitals; value and description of said property; fees charged to residents; fees charged to non-residents; also showing the position of any funds held by the city of London and the county of Middlesex for hospital purposes. Also a copy of the agreement between the city of London and the county of Middlesex with reference to such fund. He explained the object of his motion as being to determine the relative proportion of the amounts paid by the cities to the aid of these hospitals, and the proportion of benefit they received.

The motion was carried.

THE INTER-PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY.

Mr. HARKIN moved for a return of copies of all receipts given by individuals for compensation for lands to the Commissioners appointed to settle the boundary line between the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, now the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, in virtue of the Act of 1860; and the names of all parties to whom conveyances were made; and the number of the lots; also copies of all conveyances, or writings in nature of conveyances, granted to individuals by said Commissioners in virtue of sub-section 1 of section 4 of 23 Vic., cap. 21, so far as the same may be found in the Department of the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

The motion was carried.

The House adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

TORONTO, March 2.

This Committee met this morning, Mr. Clarke (Wellington) in the chair. There were also present Messrs. Crooks, Hardy, Woods, Ferris, Ross, Meredith, Lauder, Williams, Deacon, Striker, Gibson, Ballantyne, and Wills.

Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSON, Principal of the Agricultural College, gave evidence with reference to an item in the estimates for 1878 of "Canadian Bank of Commerce, for advances, \$5,000," under the head of "Agricultural College." He explained that he went to the College in August, 1874, and that before the end of the year arrived, the appropriation of \$15,000 for the maintenance of the College had given out. On sending in his account for November to the Department of Agriculture it was returned with the statement that there was no money, as was also that for December. Of course, there having been no precedent by which to estimate the annual cost of the institution, it was not remarkable that the appropriation was too small. About the 18th or the 20th of December, 1874, he came to Toronto and saw the Commissioner, Mr. McKellar, and afterwards the Treasurer, Mr. Crooks, about the matter. The House was in session at the time, but it was too late to have the amount placed in either the ordinary or the supplementary estimates. According to an arrangement, however, of the Treasurer, to whom he was referred by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Mr. McKellar, the amount of \$5,000 was placed to his credit, as Bursar of the Agricultural College, at the branch of the Bank of Commerce, Guelph, and with that amount he paid the debts which had accrued. Thinking that \$5,000 had been placed in "Unforeseen and Unprovided," he did not insert it in his estimates for any of the following years, and it was not till 1876, when the Public Accounts for 1874 appeared, that he saw that the \$5,000 had not been provided for. He spoke personally to the Treasurer and the Commissioner of Agriculture about having the overdraft settled, but he had no written communication to either of the Departments, and the matter was overlooked. Previous to the present session, however, he called the attention of Mr. Wood, who happened to be both Treasurer and Commissioner of Agriculture, to the matter, and the \$5,000 was placed in the estimates for 1878.

Mr. CROOKS stated that it was quite true that on the representation of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Mr. McKellar, the Treasury Department arranged to carry the institution through the year 1874 by means of an overdraft on the bank. He was only responsible, however, while Treasurer, for the appropriations required for the Treasury Department, and not for the expenses of any public institution beyond providing the money. The Commissioner of Agriculture and the head of the institution were primarily responsible for seeing that this particular item was provided for. The Principal, he thought, should have called the attention of the head of the Department of Agriculture to the matter in writing.

Mr. LAUDER moved, "That Mr. Johnson appear before the Committee at its next meeting for the purpose of explaining the estimates for 1878."

Mr. MEREDITH moved in amendment, "That the Principal of the Agricultural College be requested to attend at 9:30 on Monday, to be further examined as to the accounts and working of the said College."

Mr. ROSS moved in amendment, "That such an irregular and unprecedented proceeding as calling a subordinate officer to explain the estimates for which the head of the Department is responsible, and whose duty it is to explain them to the House, should not be sanctioned by this Committee."

Mr. ROSS' amendment was carried, and, after a motion had been carried requesting the Chairman to prepare a draft report, the Committee adjourned.

PRINTING COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Printing Committee was held at half-past nine o'clock this morning. Present:—Hon. Mr. Fraser in the chair;