

work about the building, so that he might earn enough money to take him home, thus avoiding the usual custom of giving discharged convicts money for that purpose. This work had not occupied in all more than ten days, and at the expiration of that time the man had been discharged. There was another man who had desired to secure the job thus given to Collingwood, and it was possible that he had been the author of the letter to the hon. member for East Toronto. Be that as it might, that hon. member would, he was sure, take the opportunity of withdrawing the charge. An objection had been made in the same letter to the appointment of a man as a sessional messenger, the expression being used that the "Provincial Secretary had taken another of these reformed convicts from Brantford" to fill that position. The man thus employed had applied for the position in question, and he had been appointed. His character was thought to be good. Though there had been a charge of larceny against him, the bill had been thrown out by the grand jury of Brantford and he had been honourably discharged. Shortly after his appointment had been confirmed, attention was directed to his former record by some of the Conservative newspapers, and on enquiry it was found that he had been fined three or four times for selling liquor without a license. Under these circumstances his services had been dispensed with before any Government money had been paid to him, and within a day or two of his entering upon the performance of his duties. This was the head and front of the Government's offending.

Mr. BELL said he knew nothing personally of the matter, having never visited the institution; but he had heard this charge made against the Government, and thought the House was the correct place for the Ministry to meet it. He had had a conversation with the party who wrote the letter, and

Mr. HARDY--Have you any objection to giving his name?

Mr. BELL--Yes, at present; but I have perfect faith in his veracity. He agreed with the Government that it was much better to give the convicts work by which to earn money on the expiry of their time than to give them money to pay their way home.

Mr. LAUDER said that if the honourable member for West Toronto had done nothing else he had at least shown the mode of appointment used by the Provincial Secretary with regard to servants of this House. That gentleman was responsible for the appointments made, and the House looked to him to see that the servants employed about the Chamber should be men of good character and respectability. This man, Collingwood, was from the Secretary's own constituency, and any member of his Committee could have told him that the man had figured on the police reports of that city. Yet the Secretary had not found out anything about it until his attention had been directed to it by the newspapers. He would like to know if there were any more such servants employed in the House?

Mr. HARDY stated that he did not think there were. It was strange that the Opposition should find such fault with a man for having violated the license law, for generally their objection was to that law itself. (Laughter.)

After further discussion the matter was dropped, and the last paragraph of the Address was carried.

The Address was then formally passed and ordered to be presented to His Honour.

THE BUDGET.

Mr. WOOD moved that the House on Friday next resolve itself into Committee of Supply. Carried.

Mr. WOOD moved that on Friday next the House resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means. Carried.

REPORTS AND RETURNS.

Mr. HARDY presented the Public Accounts for 1877; the annual report of Public and High Schools for 1877; the report of the Committee of Public Works for 1878; a return relating to the appointment by the Court of Chancery of guardians to heirs *ad litem*; a return in reference to the appointment of the Boundary Commissioners; and a return in reference to the General Hospitals of Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, and Toronto.

The House adjourned at 4:35.