

should be introduced. He believed that there was not an office under the Government more useful to the people than that of Inspector of Division Courts. He considered also that the Inspector of Registry Offices was an efficient officer, and as nearly every citizen of the country held real estate, and as the records of the same were kept in the Registry Offices, for a matter of \$2,000 it was not wise to do away with such valuable inspection.

Mr. HUNTER believed it was a recognized fact that there were irregularities in the Division Courts, and the Inspector was necessary. Considering the fact that there were only forty registry offices in the Province, he thought the Inspector of those offices was paid too much.

The item was then carried. The Committee rose and reported.

The House adjourned at 10:30.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Fraser—On Monday next—Bill to amend the Railway Act of Ontario.

Mr. McCraney—On Monday next—Bill to amend the Municipal Act respecting Harbours, Docks, &c.

Also—Bill to amend the R. S. of O., respecting Ditching Water Courses.

Mr. Watterworth—Bill to amend the Agriculture and Arts Act.

Mr. Wood—Bill respecting payments under the Municipal Loan Fund Scheme where Indians are interested.

Mr. Currie—Bill respecting the sale of land under mortgages.

Mr. Springer—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

Also—Enquiry of Ministry—Whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce a measure during the present session granting aid to sugar-beet manufactories.

Also—Enquiry of Ministry—Whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce during the present session a measure to amend the License Law, changing the hours for innkeepers to close.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES.

Toronto, 13th Feb., 1879.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

This Committee met this morning. Present:—Clarke (Wellington) in the chair, Wood, Striker, Ferris, Harcourt, Ross, Merrick, Ballantyne, Hardy, Wills, Meredith, Gibson.

The papers in connection with an item of \$1,725 25 for services and expenses re Central Prison Commission were laid upon the table.

Mr. MERRICK asked for an explanation of the expenditure.

Mr. HARDY said that a Commission had been appointed by the Government and sanctioned by the House for the settlement of a dispute between them and the Car Company as to the rates payable for prison labour employed by the Company. The Government had selected as Commissioners Hon. Mr. Howland and Mr. Brockway and Mr. Noxon. The Commission sat for a considerable time, during which it assumed the proportions of an arbitration, taking evidence as to the rates that should be charged. The Commissioners had been allowed \$20 per day and their travelling expenses when visiting several institutions in the United States, which they did for the purpose of gaining information on matters similar to those in dispute. Expenses under that head were included in the \$1,725 25.

Mr. MERRICK said the accounts did not appear in detail, and asked that the examination of the expenditure should stand until they could be got.

Mr. HARDY explained the remainder of the expenses connected with the Commission. A shorthand writer had been employed at a cost of \$636 40, and the report had been printed at an expense of \$501 95. A large number of witnesses had been examined, each party paying for their own witnesses.

Further consideration of the item stood until the accounts in detail were produced.

Mr. MERRICK asked for an explanation of the item "Barber & Ellis, printing, \$841 22."

The CHAIRMAN said that that expense was incurred for the printing of the pamphlet

on the Sydney Exhibition.

Mr. MERRICK wished to have a copy of the pamphlet.

A copy was ordered to be obtained.

Mr. G. B. COWPER, of the Woods and Forests branch, was examined as to a payment to him for extra services of \$200. He explained that he was paid that sum for work done by him in connection with conducting sales of timber limits. That same amount had been paid to him on a similar occasion in 1872. While conducting the sale the work in his office accumulated, and on his return he had been forced to make such extra exertions as to seriously injure his health. The salary he was paid was \$2,000.

Mr. Ross asked for an explanation as to the expenses connected with the McQueen investigation, \$1,156 14.

Mr. HARDY said the expenses were incurred in the investigation into charges against Judge McQueen. The Commission was issued in 1876, and the Government thought it was only proper that as the charges against Judge McQueen had been dismissed a proportion of the expenses should be borne by the Government. The prosecution, to a certain extent, was a public one, and though the charges were dismissed certain irregularities had been shown, and the Government had thought it in the public interest that a portion of the expenses of the investigation should be borne by them.

Mr. MERRICK thought it strange that if the investigation were a proper one that the Government should pay the expenses of both sides. He asked an explanation of the amount, \$48 10, paid to Sheriff Perry in connection with the investigation.

Mr. HARDY said that the investigation had been conducted before a regularly constituted Court, and that it was necessary to have the Sheriff in attendance.

Mr. MERRICK said it appeared that the expenses of the prosecutor had been entirely borne by the Government.

Mr. MERRICK wished to know how the sessional writers were appointed, and whether any individual who had been employed in this capacity had been paid for services at a time when he was not actually engaged.

Mr. GILMOR, Clerk of the House, said that nominally the appointment of sessional writers lay with him, but the practice was to appoint them on the recommendation of members of the Government. Last year a writer named Fox, who had been taken on the staff about the middle of the session, had been paid for his services from the beginning of it. He understood, however, that he had been brought to Toronto on the understanding that he was to be employed from the beginning of the session.

The Committee adjourned till eleven o'clock to-morrow.

PRIVATE BILLS.

In this Committee the Bill incorporating the village of Drummondville and the present South Ward of the town of Clifton was passed.

A Bill was submitted to provide for the incorporation of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association. One clause of it as proposed provided that none but those who were regularly registered as members of the Society should be allowed to practice as veterinary surgeons, or assume any title to indicate that they were authorized to practice as such. In opposition it was pointed out by the chairman (Mr. Fraser) and others that the farmers living at a distance from the county towns would suffer very serious injury if this were carried into effect, as there was hardly one of them that did not assume to treat his own or his neighbours' horses or cattle for ordinary diseases. The clause was therefore amended to prohibit any but those regularly authorized to do so assuming the title of graduates of the Ontario Veterinary College. Otherwise the Bill gives the Association the ordinary powers of an incorporated Society.

It was resolved to ask for an extension of time for reporting Private Bills until Friday, the 21st instant.