

After some discussion,

Mr. MEREDITH desired that the debate should be adjourned in its present stage.

Mr. MOWAT said that the question could be brought up at any time.

Mr. BELL thought it a most unfair thing that this matter should be allowed to drop when the Committee rose for the very purpose of appealing to the House. He held that there should be a vote taken at once, and accused the Government of shirking the question.

Mr. CURRIE suggested this question should be made the first order of the day for to-morrow.

Mr. MOWAT said hon. gentlemen opposite seemed to be anxious to impute bad motives to the Government on this matter, when there was no reason whatever for such imputation. He had no objection to the question being taken up to-morrow.

Mr. BETHUNE suggested that the question should be taken up at the evening session to-morrow, as there would be a larger attendance of members than in the afternoon.

This was agreed to, and the House adjourned at 10:25.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Clarke, Norfolk—On Thursday next—Bill to amend sections 106 and 107 of chap. 111 of the R. S. of Ontario, relative to the inspection of Registry Offices.

Mr. Graham—On Thursday next—Resolution—That it would be inexpedient and unjust to the interests of Ontario to continue the grant of \$18,000 to Superior Court Judges after the retirement or demise of the present incumbents, and that on the retirement or demise of any of the Superior Judges of the Ontario Courts the supplementary grant of \$1,000 to any Judge of said Courts from Provincial funds who may hereafter be appointed by the Dominion Government should cease.

Mr. Broder—On Thursday—Order of the House for copies of all correspondence between any member of the Government and the License Inspector for the county of Dundas, or any other person, in reference to any prosecutions that have taken place in said county under the License Act during the years 1877 and '78.

Mr. Baxter—On Thursday—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES.

TORONTO, Feb. 19.

THE HURON AND ONTARIO SHIP CANAL.

The Special Committee to which the petition of the Huron and Ontario Ship Canal Company was referred met this morning for the second time in No. 12 Committee room, Dr. Widdifield in the chair. There were present Messrs Parkhill, Lane, Deroccha, Hunter, Patterson, Long, Chisholm, and Morris.

The session was chiefly occupied in hearing explanations from Mr. Frank Turner of the construction and working of what is known as the "hydraulic lift lock," invented by Mr. E. Clark, one of the engineers who were engaged in the construction of the Menai Bridge. The only lock of the kind in existence is on the river Weaver, at Anderton, in Cheshire, England; but there, according to Mr. Turner, it has been a perfect success. During the three years it has been in operation it has cost nothing for repairs, though it has been lifting from 100 to 150 barges per day. The cost of the lock was \$100,000; but this includes an extension rendered necessary by the intervention of the river, and moreover, it was built at a time when the price of iron was at the highest point it has been at for many years. The working expense is only \$50 a week, one man being able to work it unaided. It is adapted for vessels of 300 tons, and is so constructed that one barge ascends while the other descends; the lock may, however, be constructed single as well as double according to convenience, and may be made of any capacity by the addition of more hydraulic power. Although there is only one lock in use on this principle as yet, the principle has been applied to docks, and will probably soon be utilized for the improvement of the navigation of the Volga. It is impossible to convey any adequate idea of the mode of working of the lift lock without referring to plans or models, but it may be stated that the height through which vessels are raised by it is 50 ft. 4 in. The vessel to be raised or lowered is kept afloat during the ascent or descent in an iron trough which is really a portion of the bed of the canal. In the double lock the upper trough is supplied with a greater amount of water than the lower one, and the former consequently descends. The force is rendered stronger by means of water accumulated in a tank attached to the system in such a way that its contents can be used for forcing down one trough and in this way forcing up the other.

Applying his explanation to the case of the Huron and Ontario Canal, Mr. Turner called attention to the fact that the deep cut through the height of land would have to be seven or eight miles long and 197 feet deep at the deepest part; that the enormous amount of excavation required would make it extremely difficult to dispose of the earth taken out of the canal, and that the depth and width of the cut would entail a great cost for bridging. It was impossible without a survey to say precisely how much of the excavation could be dispensed with, but by the use of the hydraulic lift lock the first cost of the canal would probably be reduced from \$38,000,000, the original estimate, to one-half of that amount, while there would be a saving of time in passing through to the extent of one-third. In the case of this canal the height of the lifts would be about 75 feet, and if the money were ready to go through with the work the undertaking could be completed within five years. Twelve lift-locks would suffice, while fifty would be required on the old plan. By the lift-lock system there is little waste of water, except by evaporation, a fifteen-inch pipe from some perennial source being sufficient to supply all that was needed after the canal was once full. It was quite likely that the necessary water could be procured from the Holland, Don, Credit, or Humber Rivers, and reservoirs might be constructed to store up water in through the winter when the canal was not in use. On this plan no water would require to be taken from Lake Simcoe. A survey sufficiently thorough to furnish the information on which to base tenders could be completed for about \$10,000.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Turner for

his explanations, and he was requested to reduce them to writing for the use of the Committee.

After Mr. Capreol had given a brief outline of the points he would like to have submitted to the House the Committee adjourned, to meet again at the call of the Chairman.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS,

TUESDAY, Feb. 18.

The Public Accounts Committee met to-day. There were present—Clarke (Wellington), in the chair, Ferris, Harcourt, Gibson, Wood, Wills, Striker, and Meredith.

Hon. Sydney Smith, Inspector of Registry Offices, was examined at considerable length, and testified that he had been appointed in 1866 at a salary of \$2,000, including travelling expenses, which salary had been continued ever since. His duties comprised the visiting of registry offices, a critical inspection of the method of registration, seeing that all the books in connection with the offices were in proper condition, that all deeds and documents were kept in good order, looking after the sureties and standing of registrars, and the reporting to the Government, and having remedied, any irregularities that might be found during his inspection. When he had first begun his work he had found an entire want of system in the registration, but he believed the effect of his exertions had been to bring it into a state of considerable efficiency; he considered that the interests of the public required the inspection of the registry offices.

The Committee adjourned at 12:35.

Wednesday, Feb. 19.

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

Mr. J. W. Murray, Government detective, gave evidence as to the expenditure through him in various counties. He was appointed three years ago at a salary of \$1,500, and his duties were to attend to all criminal cases in the Province that the Government took up. When the expenses connected with any case amounted to more than a small sum they were not incurred without the sanction of the Attorney-General or his assistant; he was engaged during almost the whole of his time in the performance of his duties; he had expended considerable amounts on his account for the travelling expenses of witnesses, when not authorized to do so by the Government; these sums were not repaid to him; he received no income beyond his regular salary, and the only amount that he received was a sum of \$100 from the County Council of Haldimand for services he performed in the Young case.

Mr. Meredith asked an explanation as to the sum of \$678 50 paid to Oliver, Davidson, & Co., on account of refunds.

Mr. R. H. Brown, of the Crown Lands Department, said that the firm had paid in the money on certain lands in certain townships, and it having been found that they had been sold, or could not be conveyed, the amount deposited by the firm was returned.

Mr. Meredith asked if it was the practice to allow firms to keep on deposit with the Crown Lands Department sums which might be applied to the purchase of timber limits.

Mr. Brown said it was not. The practice was that the first applicant for lands received the preference, whether the money was paid or not, so that a firm who had deposited a sum would have no advantage over one who had not.

The Committee adjourned at 12:30.

PRIVATE BILLS.

The Private Bills Committee met at 10:45 this morning, Hon. C. F. Fraser in the chair. The Committee proceeded with the consideration of the Bills respecting the re-consolidation and future limitation of the debenture debt of Toronto, and the frontage tax or local improvement Bill was taken up in connection with it.

The Legislation Committee of the City Council, ex-Ald. Turner, the City Solicitor, the City Treasurer, the Mayor, and other members of the Corporation, were present on behalf of the city to advocate the Bills, while Mr. Alex. Manning represented the Property Owners' Association in their opposition to the local improvement scheme.

Mr. MORRIS said he was in charge of the Bills, but the City Council desired to be heard through ex-Ald. Turner.

Ex-Ald. TURNER then addressed the Committee. He said the debt of the city was now so heavy that its consolidation was necessary in order to lighten the calls for taxes on the ratepayers. The debt in round numbers footed up to \$6,000,000, for which interest and sinking fund charges were paid to the amount of \$567,800 annually, or 11½ mills on every dollar of taxable property. The whole rate for the maintenance and improvement of the city ought not to exceed 20 mills, and 11½ mills of this for debt charges was altogether too much, leaving only 8½ mills to carry on the business of the Corporation with. The re-consolidation Bill was a remedy to check the growth of the debt and lower the rate of interest and sinking fund charges. By it the city desired to sweep away the sinking fund and replace the 5 and 6 per cent. bonds now held in England for 4 and 4½ per cent. bonds, the latter to be floated for as long a period as possible—forty years or more.

The CHAIRMAN—Why should this indebtedness be thrown on the ratepayers of forty years hence?

Mr. TURNER said a large portion of the debt had been contracted for permanent improvements, from which the ratepayers of future years would derive as much benefit as the present generation were now doing.

The CHAIRMAN said it was a bid to extravagance on the part of the present Councils.

Mr. TURNER said there was considerable force in this remark, there being no doubt that such proceedings were a bad example to set to other municipalities. The law compelled municipalities, however, to lay up every year five per cent. on the amount of its indebtedness, thus compelling them to provide for their debt. In Toronto, considering that they had \$4,500,000 worth of assessable property to fall back upon, they could get whatever money they wanted without the additional security of a sinking fund. The city desired to limit its debenture debt to \$6,000,000, the same not to be increased until the total amount of assessable or rateable property of the city, as the same should appear by the assessment rolls in any