

thought the financial year should not be changed to arrive at the end wished by his hon. friend opposite. His predecessor of the Treasury had, in order to get the accounts brought down, to largely increase his staff. A number of extra clerks had been engaged. By so doing, the public accounts would be prepared, down to the 31st of December of the preceding year, not later than the last of January.

Mr. MEREDITH thought the Public Accounts Committee should have time to perform its duty. If it could be otherwise arranged, he did not wish to see the financial year changed. In view of what the Treasurer had said it would be worth while to put his views into effect. He gave the different dates on which the public accounts had been brought down on previous years. Hon. gentlemen opposite desired to have the accounts of the Province fully investigated and examined.

Mr. MORRIS was glad that the new Treasurer had intimated that he believed it would be possible for him to have the public accounts before the House in time to enable the Committee to deal with them. He withdrew his resolution.

MEAT AT THE CENTRAL PRISON.

Mr. GRAY moved for a return of all correspondence between the Surgeon of the Central Prison and any member or officer of the Government in reference to meat supplied to that institution. He understood that a large quantity of meat supplied to that institution last year had been condemned, and a quantity of the meat was afterwards sold for soap grease by the Food Inspector of Toronto, who had seized it owing to its having been exposed for sale. He understood that at that time there was sickness in the Prison brought about by the prisoners eating a portion of this meat. Some of the prisoners had refused to eat this meat. He read a letter from Mr. Awde, the inspector who had seized 4,700 pounds of corned meat which had come from the Prison and had been exposed for sale.

Mr. HARDY explained that some of the meat furnished the prisoners had been stated to be by the surgeon not fit for the prisoners to eat, and it had been at once discontinued, though the Warden was of opinion that it was good enough for them, as he was using it on his own table.

The motion was carried.

RAT PORTAGE GAOL.

Mr. MONK moved for a return concerning the erection of the gaol at Rat Portage, which was carried.

PLANS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton) moved for a return showing what, if any, plans of school buildings of various kinds have ever been prepared by the direction of the Educational Department for adoption by School Boards; and also, showing how far, if at all, any systems of lighting, heating, ventilating, and draining have been approved of by the Department or recommended for general adoption. While he did not propose that uniformity should be insisted on by the Government, yet he was of opinion that there were no class of buildings in which more necessity existed for proper care in the erection of the buildings, and no class of buildings in which so little regard was paid to the various features which were of the most importance. In New York, architects had been invited to send in plans embracing convenience of arrangement for school purposes, security against fire or facility for egress, distribution of light, ventilating and heating, drainage and other sanitary features. As it was now, there was very little attention paid to anything more than the providing the necessary cubic feet of space. He would suggest that prizes be offered for competition for sets of plans for schools, embracing the ideas he had mentioned. Then as to the use of the plans. They could be lithographed and specifications printed, and if the result was nothing more than offering suggestions to local boards wishing to build new schools, it would be a great thing.

Mr. ROSS (West Middlesex) expressed his thanks that the member for Hamilton had brought the matter before the attention of the House and the country, as it was not receiving the attention it deserved. The Department of Education had for many years been giving attention to it. In 1870 a sum of \$800 was appropriated for the purpose of educating the public mind with regard to this matter. The following year a large edition of a work on school architecture by a British architect was circulated. Subsequently, a large sum was devoted to publishing plans, so that in this way the Department had shown its appreciation of the importance of the subject. The Department also authorized the issue of a work prepared by Dr. Hodgins, in which the whole question of school architecture, lighting, heating, and various sanitary arrangements were discussed in all their bearings. This work, however, passed into the hands of a small proportion of the persons concerned, and possibly had not effected that which was expected of it. The Department, in 1877, had issued regulations, which would be found in the School Act of 1878, and the inspectors had been instructed to see that these regulations were carried out. At the time that Normal Schools were established school hygiene formed part of the instruction, and it was intended to give specific direction to teachers as to how to take care of the health of the pupils, ventilation, lighting, heating, and ordinary conveni-

ences of the school. They had, however, no book on the subject suitable for the Model Schools, and he was now in correspondence with the Sanitary Association as to the preparation of a book that will bring before the teachers this question. As to the suggestion made, namely, the proposition that prizes should be offered, while he was not prepared to state definitely, yet he could say the matter would be considered before the estimates were brought down. He concluded by thanking the member for Hamilton for bringing the matter before the House.

UNDERDRAINAGE.

Mr. WATERS explained that the bill before the House respecting underdrainage was an important one. The Ditching and Watercourses Act of the Province had done away with fence viewers as a means of determining any dispute regarding drainage. It was necessary that one uniform measure should be passed to determine all these outlays and deal with this question. He explained the different clauses of the bill. Under the bill the outlet for underdrainage may be made through any number of lots and the several owners will be liable to pay a just and fair proportion of the cost of such ditch or drain. He moved that the bill be read a second time and referred to a select committee, known as the Municipal Committee. Carried.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES.

Mr. HARDY—A bill to improve the Liquor License Act.

Mr. ROSS—A bill to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and of diseases affecting fruit trees.

REPORT.

Mr. HARDY presented the report of the Queen's Printer with reference to the printing contract.

The House adjourned at six o'clock.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

Mr. Meredith—On Wednesday next—Enquiry of Ministry:—(1) Whether any award has yet been made by the arbitrators appointed to determine as to the claims of Mr. John Elliott against the Province in respect of the work done by him on the Central Prison; (2) what balance, if any, was found due to Mr. Elliott; (3) if the annual fund due has been paid.

Also—On Wednesday next—Order of the House for a return of copies of all correspondence, reports, and documents with reference to the claims of James Knott for compensation for the flooding of parts of lots Nos. 19 and 20 in the second concession of the township of Chaffy (north shore of Fairy Lake) by the construction of certain public works.

Mr. Caldwell—On Friday next—Bill to amend the Consolidated Municipal Act.

Mr. Lees—On Friday next—Bill to amend the Division Court Act.

Mr. O'Connor—On Friday next—Bill to amend "The Ontario Tree Planting Act, 1883."

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—On Monday next—Order of the House for a return embodying copies of all communications between the Senate of the University of Toronto and the Government on the subject of further State aid to the said university.