

chair.

After Recess,
Mr. MEREDITH resumed the discussion on Mr. Pardee's bill to protect the public interest in rivers, streams, and creeks. He thought the Government undertook a grave responsibility when they asked the House to pass such a law as in the question under discussion. The matter had been discussed before both in the House and in the country. He held that he had established that there was no necessity for such legislation. It was his duty to oppose the bill, but he would not offer an amendment at this stage. He would oppose the features of the bill which to his judgment were objectionable.

Mr. MOWAT said the question had been repeatedly before the Legislature. It had been discussed in the country likewise, yet his hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition, which had proved unsuccessful on all occasions in the House and in the country. (Cheers.) The hon. gentleman claimed that the bill was a dangerous one and fraught with evil. He (Mr. Mowat) said the bill was a just and equitable one, and one which they should pass. (Hear, hear.) The bill was to promote justice. (Hear, hear.) The only question for discussion in the bill was as to whether the compensation to the owners of improvements along streams was sufficient. For their present purpose, this was the real question to be considered and the only question. It was a proper thing that persons owning land on these streams had the right to bring their logs down the river. It had been admitted that it was quite right, and the only remaining question was as to the providing for compensation. He quoted the commentary by Sir John Macdonald as to the grounds of disallowing a Provincial bill. The Government wished to test the sincerity of the hon. gentleman opposite on the matter, and they now provided for another mode of determining the tolls. The bill was substantially the same bill which was before the House and had been repeatedly declared to be a just and right bill, and he had no doubt but the Government would again come to the same conclusion. The bill related not only to one stream, but to all the streams of the country.

Mr. MORRIS reviewed the legal aspect of the case, and cited numerous instances of precedents, both in Canada and the adjoining States of the Union, which, in his judgment, tended to confirm the strength of the position taken by the Dominion Government on this question.

Mr. METCALFE read an extract from a letter received, in which the opinion was expressed that the proposed legislation was altogether uncalled for.

The bill was read a second time.

SUPPLY.

The House in Committee of Supply passed the following items:—

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.		Increase.
Supreme Court of Judicature	\$ 55,119 00	\$ 805 00
Miscellaneous criminal and civil motions	227 850 00	3 750 00
Surrogate Judges and Local Masters	16,032 00	544 66
EDUCATION.		
Public and Separate Schools	\$ 240,000 00
Schools in new and poor townships	20,000 00	2,000 00
Inspection of Public and Separate Schools	27,427 00	5,305 48

Mr. MEREDITH called attention to the fact that the Ontario school statistics had been quoted in the Dominion Parliament as showing a decrease in the population of the Province. The Minister of Education had given as a reason for the augmentation of this item the increase of population, thus admitting the inaccuracy of the report. He was of opinion that machinery should be put in motion to secure greater accuracy in the preparation of the returns.

Mr. ROSS explained that the method of ascertaining the number of scholars in rural districts was by calculations of the school trustees, which were probably somewhat unreliable. This, however, would be remedied.

High Schools and Coll. Institutes,	\$84,500 00, increase.
Inspection of same,	\$5,600; increase, \$124 33.
Training of teachers,	\$14,673; increase, \$456 64.
Departmental examinations,	\$3,143 00; decrease, \$2,307,92.
Normal and Model School, Toronto,	\$21,691 00; increase, \$516.
Normal and Model School, Ottawa,	\$19,000 11; increase, \$471.
Educational Depositors' Museum and Library,	\$7,531; increase, \$431.
School of Practical Science,	\$5,375; decrease, \$125.
Miscellaneous,	\$2,450 decrease, \$1,460.
Superannuated teachers,	\$62,000; increase, \$500.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS MAINTENANCE.		Increase.
Asylum for Insane, Toronto	\$ 92,911 00	\$ 1,326 00
" " " London	125,773 00	9,942 00
" " " Kingston	59,908 00	1,120 00
" " " Hamilton	69,711 00	1,070 00
" " " for Idiots, Orillia	28,914 00	645 00
Central Prison, Toronto	73,155 00	415 00

Mr. MEREDITH called attention to the rules under which a guard was authorized to fire on an escaping prisoner, mentioning the case of a man who, while confined for a trivial offence, was fired on and killed by a guard. He thought something should be done to prevent any recur-

rence of such an affair.

Mr. HARDY explained that the rules of the Central Prison were similar to those of like institutions in England and elsewhere. The occurrence mentioned by the hon. gentleman was an exceptional case.

Mr. MERRICK was of opinion that more care should be exercised to avoid any repetition of such an accident.

	Increase.
Ontario Reformatory for Boys, Penetanguishene	\$38,910 \$2,050
Institution for Deaf and Dumb, Belleville	39,849 978
Institution for the Blind, Brantford	34,036 1,157
Andrew Mercer Reformatory for Women and Refuge for Girls	31,582 2,340
The Committee rose and reported the foregoing items.	

THE SANDWICH GAOL.

Mr. WHITE called attention to the recent escape of prisoners from Sandwich gaol, commenting on the absence of the sheriff and the apparent insufficiency of the staff, and inquired if a reward had been offered.

Mr. MOWAT believed a reward had been offered by the sheriff.

Mr. MEREDITH thought that something should be done to ensure greater security in this gaol, and remarked that a case had been made out against the former sheriff on similar grounds. He thought the sheriff might have exercised greater care.

Mr. BALFOUR stated that the former sheriff had not been removed for a single offence, but had been guilty of repeated derelictions of duty. The gentleman at present occupying the position was universally conceded to be a most efficient officer.

The House adjourned at 12:20.

THE BRIBERY PLOT.

Opening of the Investigation Before the Committee on Elections.

Statement of Messrs. Balfour and Dowling.

Sub-Committee Appointed to Look Into Precedents.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE POLICE COURT.

The Criminals Arraigned Before the Police Magistrate.

BAIL REFUSED.

The meeting of the Committee on Privileges and Elections was the occasion for a large gathering of spectators and interested persons. The meeting was held in the library of the legislative buildings, Mr. Harcourt in the chair, and a full attendance of the Committee. There could not by any possibility be a mistake as to the grave character of the proceedings. Mr. Meredith looked tired and haggard, Mr. Gray's jaunty military air was gone and he was dejected and glum. Mr. Morris looked, if possible, a little more inane than usual, and all the rest appeared deeply conscious of the momentous occasion and ready for the most startling revelations. The statements of the members were given in a straightforward manner, and the gentlemen showed that as true Canadians and loyal Reformers they deeply resented the indignity placed upon them by the mere offer of a bribe. The proceedings were opened at 10:30.

Mr. MOWAT said—There are very few precedents to guide us, and such precedents as there are to guide us are old ones. It seems to me that the right plan here and now will be to take the statements of those members of the House in regard to whom I made a general reference in the resolution which I proposed and which the House has adopted, and after having heard the statements it will be for the Committee to consider what course ought to be taken in regard to evidence and summoning witnesses and further action in the matter.

Mr. MORRIS—Does the Attorney-General purpose to take the statement of a member or evidence?

Mr. MOWAT said now they proposed to take the statement of a member and afterwards evidence if it were needed.