

has not forced action by a writ. The last suggestion made for the liquidation is that debentures should be issued for twenty years, and we have taken power to extend the time of payment by these means, and St. Catharines may also take advantage of the measure.

Mr. NEELON must say that the city of St. Catharines did not get justice done in that measure. It got a very small reduction on account of the Municipal Loan Fund. It had a debt of \$190,000, and it was only reduced to \$160,000 by this fund. For instance, the town of Cobourg had got a reduction of \$60,000 on its indebtedness. The debt had been increasing until it had now reached \$600,000, and it required the whole amount of revenue raised by an assessment of 2 cents on the dollar with the exception of \$33,000, and it was utterly impossible to pay \$165,000 on the Municipal Loan Fund. He therefore hoped that the hon. Treasurer would not press this Bill.

Hon. A. M. ROSS said the Bill was to afford relief to such places as St. Catharines.

Mr. MULHOLLAND said Cobourg had a greater claim than St. Catharines, because it was less able to pay. True, that town had got \$500,000 from the Municipal Loan Fund for a railway, and the people added another half million. It was unnecessary for him to say that it had been lost. He claimed that the amount due by Cobourg should be entirely cancelled, because the town had derived no benefit from the work, and was, in fact, unable to pay its indebtedness. Its liabilities, including this amount, would be \$345,000.

Mr. MEREDITH held that the Bill was irregular, and inasmuch as it was a measure dealing with an indebtedness to the Crown it should form a message from the Lieutenant-Governor.

Hon. O. MOWAT asked that the Bill should stand until he looked into the point.

Hon. A. M. ROSS, in reply to Mr. Meredith, said that all the municipalities which had paid their indebtedness on account of the Municipal Loan Fund were obliged to pay the full amounts and they would have reason to feel aggrieved if they were compelled to pay in full and those which were still indebted should be allowed to get off without paying anything at all. This Bill was introduced for the purpose of making the payment easy for those municipalities which were still indebted by extending the time of payment.

Mr. MEREDITH—Were the debentures sold?

Hon. A. M. ROSS—The debentures were sold by the Government, but the first three half-yearly payments, I think, were not met by St. Catharines; and the Government, to sustain the credit of the town and the Province, met the payments. The town of St. Catharines has met the payments.

SUPPLY.

The House in Committee of Supply, Mr. Baxter in the chair.

On the question of Civil Government, the item Lieut. Governor's office, \$3,980, was considered.

Mr. MEREDITH objected to the over-expenditure of \$180 in last year's Public Accounts in this item, and contended that the expenditure should be kept within reasonable limits. He replied at some length to Mr. McLoughlin's comparisons on a former occasion, and assured the House that the Finance Minister at Ottawa had to deal with years of depression and bad trade.

Hon. A. M. ROSS showed that the over-expenditure was within a reasonable limit, and that part belonged to the year 1883.

The item passed.

Executive Council and Attorney-General's Department, \$15,130; increase, \$41 66.

Mr. MERRICK asked for an explanation of the gradual increase of the salaries in this Department.

Hon. O. MOWAT said the hon. gentleman had anticipated the answer. There had been a very great increase in the business of the Department and was much greater than the expense, and the economy had been such that it would be impossible to surpass it.

The item passed.

EDUCATION.

Education Department, \$20,929; increase, \$250.

Hon. G. W. ROSS explained that the increase was on account of salaries.

Mr. WOOD thought the clerks of the Departments were getting too little rather than too much for their services.

Mr. Meredith and Mr. Merrick proposed the classifying of the clerks, and paying them according to their efficiency. He asked an explanation of an item of \$100 paid to a Mr. Kingsford for preparing Bill. Another objectionable class of items was payment of civil servants for special work.

Hon. G. W. ROSS stated that it was desirable in consolidating the School Act to obtain the services of an experienced man, and Mr. Kingsford had been recommended to him. His services had been invaluable. He was to get \$300 for consolidating the Public and High School Acts, and this \$100 had been given on account. With respect to the other item he stated that Dr. May had been paid \$10 per institute, for visiting Mechanics' Institutes, which were dying out, to resuscitate them, and the work had been done satisfactorily.

Mr. YOUNG asked what the duties of Dr. May were as a member of the Department in relation to Mechanics' Institutes. For some years he had noticed that this gentleman had every session a claim of \$300 or \$400 for extras.

Hon. G. W. ROSS said Dr. May's duties were purely inside duties and this duty was an extra one.

Mr. MERRICK said he knew Dr. May had done good work in his locality by resuscitating Mechanics' Institutes.

Hon. G. W. ROSS in answer to Mr. Meredith, stated that the name J. W. McLellan should be J. A. McLellan. The item of \$100 was given to him for preparing a catalogue of the Normal School Library for the benefit of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes.

Mr. MEREDITH referred to the expenditure of over \$9,518 for school readers which had not been authorized. He asked how soon the papers asked for would be printed.

Hon. G. W. ROSS stated that he hoped they would be down this week and he was ready to discuss the subject at any time.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

The following items were passed without important debate:—

	Vote.	Increase.	Decrease.
Department of Crown Lands..	\$45,310 00	\$	\$1,100 00
Department of Public Works..	17,730 00	.....	150 00
Treasury Department.....	17,075 00	.....	135 00
Department of Agriculture....	1,300 00	.....	100 00
Secretary and Registrar's Department.....	29,200 00	775 00	.....
Department of Immigration...	1,600 00	.....	.....
Public Institutions.....	9,233 33	158 33	.....
Provincial Board of Health.....	7,950 00	1,250 00	.....
Miscellaneous.....	10,150 00	150 00	.....

The Committee reported progress. It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

AFTER RECESS.

The House again in Committee of Supply.

LEGISLATION.

Legislation—\$120,550; increase, \$8,200.
Mr. CARNEGIE criticizd the employment of extra clerks, educing the fact that some of them had been employed on municipal statistics, and from this he attempted to defend the Opposition from the charge of being responsible for a considerable share of the increase of the amount granted for legislation.

Hon. A. S. HARDY explained that the increases were largely due to the orders for returns moved for by the Opposition. Last year there was about four times the quantity of material published, largely on account of the orders of the other side, as compared with 1872. There were presented to the House last session 101 returns, 42 of which came down by command; the remaining 59 came down in answer to orders of the House last and previous sessions. There were ordered last session 73, 41 of which were brought down; 38 of the 73 were asked by the Opposition and 34 were brought down, the remaining 15 were asked by friends of the Government, of which 7 were brought down. More returns were asked for and more brought down than in any session since Confederation. The Opposition must, therefore, share the responsibility of the increased expenditure, and they could not get out of it. The amount paid for extra clerks during one session at Ottawa was between two and three hundred thousand dollars, and yet the Government did not present their returns so promptly as was done here. As for the manner of charging the accounts, it did not make much difference whether the men were put on as extra clerks or sessional writers.

Mr. CARNEGIE proceeded to state that, in his opinion, the Opposition was not responsible for most of the returns brought down.

Hon. C. F. FRASER said the floor of the House was no place to consider the subject, as the debate could consist of opinion only. It ought to be investigated in the Public Accounts Committee, where those who had charge of the writers could be examined, and the matter could be definitely settled.

Mr. MERRICK complained that the number of sessional writers had increased from 32 in 1882 to 60 in 1884, and that the number of messengers in the same time had increased from 22 to 32. He objected to a further increase this year.

Mr. FERRIS was sorry the remark had been made about not calling the Public Accounts Committee together, as he had been willing to call it whenever he thought he could get a quorum.

Mr. MEREDITH suggested that the Government was wholly to blame for not calling the Public Accounts Committee together.

Hon. C. F. FRASER pointed out that the Opposition had apparently been waiting to see how long the Government would be before they called the Public Accounts Committee together. Now that the Opposition had shown their policy they should have as much of the Public Accounts Committee as they wished.

Hon. A. M. ROSS quoted from the Ottawa Auditor-General's report, showing that the names were not given at all, but as "37 extra clerks," followed by a gross sum, while in the Ontario Accounts every person's name was given

with the amount paid to each.

Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Clarke followed in the criticism of the details of the Accounts. Hon. A. S. HARDY stated that, in answer to Mr. Carnegie, who had said that only five volumes of the eight of sessional papers of last year were Department reports, he had referred to those of 1871. In that year two volumes only were published, and of these 46 pages of one and 10 pages of the other only were sessional papers on returns.

The item passed.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Hon. O. MOWAT explained that he thought this was the first year in which the estimate for criminal justice did not exceed the amount actually expended the year previous. They only took a vote of \$120,000 and a larger sum was required for the service. It was a matter over which the Government had no control. He explained in what respects additions had been incurred and changes made.

Mr. MEREDITH said the hon. gentleman might do something for the Province by urging the Dominion Government to defray the whole of the salaries of the judges of the Province, the Legislature providing in some cases an additional salary to that paid by the Dominion.

Hon. O. MOWAT said he had considered the suggestion and had already urged the matter, and had good reason to believe that the change could not be made in the case of the Ontario judges, who really deserved it, without making a similar increase to those in the other Provinces, who did not deserve it. He considered that the Province of Ontario would lose more in this way than it was paying by supplementing the salaries of judges.

The items for the administration of justice, as follows, passed:—

	Amount.	Increase.
Supreme Court of Judicature..	\$7,333 00	\$1,914 00
Miscellaneous Criminal and Civil Justice.....	251,155 00	3,755 00
Surrogate Judges and Local Masters.....	16,532 00	500 00
	\$325,020 00	\$6,169 00

EDUCATION.

Mr. WOOD supported a larger vote to poor schools.

Mr. DILL concurred in the previous speaker's remarks.

Hon. G. W. ROSS said the House would observe that the grant had increased from year to year. He had been able last year to aid these schools by distributing several thousand dollars worth of books, forming the remnant of the old depository, besides some three or four thousand dollars worth of maps, and he proposed to continue this distribution. He feared he could not increase the grant this year.

Mr. MEREDITH objected to the Minister of Education giving out in his report that the school population had decreased, unless he were perfectly certain that it had. He could not understand if the whole population of the Province had increased 6,000 within the year, how there was a decrease in the school population of 14,000.

Hon. G. W. ROSS—It would be a very serious thing for me to undertake to enquire into the causes of the decrease of the school population as the hon. gentleman suggests. I do not think that comes within the purview of my official duties by any means. If the decrease arises from the causes which the hon. gentlemen hinted at, I think the enquiry would come more within the scope of the Board of Health, as he has suggested since he sat down. I have to deal with the facts as I find them. Although there appears to be a disparity between the statements contained in my report and the statements contained in a report made in another way, as municipal statistics, yet I have every reason to believe that my report is accurate. The School Act, it is stated on page 12 of this report, requires every municipal council, after the first of January in each year, to cause its assessor to set down on the annual assessment roll, in separate columns, the number of children of the ages over sixteen and under twenty-one, and between seven and thirteen, in addition to the column between five and sixteen. This duty is imposed by the Municipal Act. From these returns the trustees make out the school population of the country. What object the assessor should have in making anything but an accurate return I cannot see. We take these statistics from the returns of the various Boards of Trustees. There are between 5,000 and 6,000 of these Boards, and I am quite sure in the Department the statistics are dealt with just exactly as we find them. But as confirmatory evidence of the accuracy of this report, we have the additional fact that the population attending school is annually decreasing. Now that population is very easily arrived at with perfect accuracy. These returns are taken from the schools. It is taken from registers direct and the reports are sent to the Department, and that confirms the other, namely, the numbers attending school are decreasing year by year as well as is the school population. I cannot tell what is the cause, and I don't know more than the mere fact stated in the report which is compiled by the officers in the Department. I know that they are not falsified in the Department in the slightest degree, and I am satisfied that the facts