

had appointed him a commissioner to investigate the very matters which it would be the province of this committee to inquire into. He made a very thorough investigation and published the results in a volume which could be obtained for five dollars. That was four years ago, and contained everything that could be discovered up to that date. It seemed to him useless to appoint a committee. They would be compelled to go to great expense in bringing here experts living even on this side of the Atlantic, and so far as he could see nothing would even then be obtained from them beyond what they had already made known. Additional information might, indeed, be obtained by bringing witnesses from Europe, and the expense of this would be immense, and he believed it had not been contemplated even by Mr. Meredith. Better than the appointment of a committee would, in his opinion, be the appointment of a Royal Commission; but the expense of this, too, would be very large, and, having in view the amount of good it would be likely to achieve, he thought the Government hardly warranted in appointing one—not at present at any rate.

Mr. Tooley expressed his regret at the decision of the Attorney-General.

The debate was continued by Dr. McLaughlin, who pointed out that such a committee as that proposed, composed of gentlemen of the House none of whom were sanitary scientists and few of whom knew much of the subject they would have to investigate, would be utterly useless. His name was not on the proposed committee, but had it been, he should have hesitated to act. The doctor closed by showing from an argument advanced by Mr. Meredith which had a scientific bearing, that even the leader of the Opposition seemed to know very little about the scientific aspect of the sewage question.

Mr. Snider, from a rear seat on the Government side of the House, mildly complained that the inland towns were very badly off in view of the judicial decision in the London case. He instanced Berlin, and asked the Government to do something.

Mr. Waters helped Mr. Meredith with the argument that Toronto was as bad as, not to say worse, than London. He expressed his sympathy with the City of London and said it was very hard that it should remain under the decision referred to. He wanted the committee appointed.

Mr. Ballantyne took the same line of argument.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said that if it were felt that such a committee as the proposed would throw any light upon the subject they would investigate, the Government would willingly appoint it. The hon. gentleman then at some length pointed out the difficulties that would surround the operations of such a committee, and the apparent impossibility of its coming to any satisfactory conclusion on a matter on which scientific experts themselves were all at sea. Mr. Hardy explained also the principle of the new scheme of drainage to be introduced into the London Asylum. The hon. gentleman gave a very clear description of the scheme, and showed how well it had worked in other places, principally in a few United States cities. It is known as "the Intermittent Downward Filtrating System." It might possibly prove a failure, as previous attempts had proved, but the probabilities were strongly in favour of its success. It was a system, however, that he believed could not be utilised in its present shape in the case of large places. The system was explained pretty fully in the Public Work report.

Mr. Ostrom supported Mr. Meredith's motion.

Hon. Mr. Fraser said he would like any hon. member in the House to express his conviction that any municipality would take the result of the deliberations of such a committee as that proposed and act upon them; and he would like any hon. gentleman whom it was proposed to place upon this committee to say that after they had deliberated until the close of the session or even beyond the session, he would like to take the result of those deliberations and commend it to any municipality as final. The hon. Commissioner enlarged upon the difficulties found the world over in connection with the question of sewage drainage and pointed out the absurdity of urging that a committee such as the proposed should sit for a few weeks and come to a conclusion on matters that had baffled the minds of the greatest scientists. He hoped the members of the House would admit that the Government was doing in the matter what it believed to be best, and what was best for the public benefit, in refusing to appoint a committee which it considered useless. But, of course, the House had the controlling power in its own hands, and would act as it thought best

in the matter. The member for London himself was evidently uncertain as to the usefulness of a committee, and had suggested even that a Royal Commission would be better, and the Attorney-General had not altogether dissented from his view as to the desirability of the appointment of such a commission. For his own part, he thought a very proper termination of the discussion would be the reference of the matter to the Board of Health of the Province, a body eminently fitted to consider the subject.

Mr. Gibson (of Huron) said he had, as he always had had, great confidence in the Government, but at the same time he must admit his very strong sympathy with the City of London in the position in which it found itself placed.

Mr. Craig (West Durham) advocated the appointment of the committee on the ground that it would serve to bring prominently before the people of the Province questions involving public health.

Mr. Creighton spoke in short terms touching the motion, his principal argument being that the House should grant the order for the commission because it would be the means of collecting information of use not alone to London but to every village, town and city in the Province.

Hon. A. M. Ross defended the position taken by the Government, maintaining that their only object was to save the Province from what, taking all things into consideration, would be useless expenditure.

A vote was then taken, resulting as follows:—

YEAS.—Ballantyne, Blyth, Clancy, Clarke, H. E., Craig, Creighton, Cruess, Fell, French, Garson, Hammell, Hess, Hudson, Ingram, Kerns, Lees, McMahon, Marter, Meacham, Meredith, Metcalfe, Miller, Monk, Morgan, Ostrom, Preston, Horke, Smith (Frontenac), Stewart, Tooley, Waters, Whitney, Willoughby, Wood (Hastings), Wylie—35.

NAYS.—Allan, Armstrong, Awrey, Balfour, Bishop, Blezard, Bronson, Caldwell, Clarke (Wellington), Conmee, Dack, Dance, Davis, Drury, Evanturel, Field, Fraser, Freeman, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Gilmour, Gould, Graham, Guthrie, Harcourt, Hardy, Lyon, McAndrew, McKay, McLaughlin, Mack, Master, Morin, Mowat, Murray, O'Connor, Pacaud, Phelps, Rayside, Ross (Huron), Ross (Middlesex), Smith (York), Snider, Sprague, Stratton, Wood (Brant)—45.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Graham—On Friday next—Bill to amend chap. 184, sec. 80, R.S.O., to reduce the qualification of voters at municipal elections in towns of less than 5,000 inhabitants from \$300 to \$200.

Mr. Conmee—On Friday next—Bill to amend the Election Act.

Mr. Ross (Middlesex)—Bill to amend the Act respecting the Federation of the University of Toronto and University College with other universities and colleges.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

MR OSTROM'S BILL—THE ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR—SPEAKER'S DINNER.

The following had the honor of dining

with the Hon. the Speaker and Mrs. Baxter in the evening:—Hon. A. S. Hardy and the following members of the Legislature—Messrs. Morgan, Graham, Whitney, Medcalfe, Murray, Bronson, Wood (Brant), Stratton, Meacham, McKay, Wylie, Stewart, Kearns, Caldwell, Phelps, Hammell, Gould, Pacaud. There were also invited Messrs. Houston, Delamere and Sydere.

Mr. Ostrom and Dr. Willoughby introduced to the Hon. Mr. Drury, Minister of Agriculture, a united deputation from Trenton and Murray, consisting of Messrs. James, Werrels and Garratt, who desire such changes in the Agricultural Act as will enable the Township of Murray and Town of Trenton to unite for exhibition purposes and secure a proper share of the Government grant. As the law is, agricultural and horticultural societies cannot so unite. The hon. Minister said he proposed to make some changes in the law this session, and would introduce a clause enabling the union asked for to be consummated, but he could not alter the general law so as to enable a new electoral district for agricultural purposes to be created, or even carved out of existing districts. The deputation retired pleased with the courteous and attentive treatment given them by the hon. Minister, and impressed with the conviction that he would do his utmost to meet their wishes consistently with the varied interests affected.

The estimates for the current year were presented to the House and are as follows:—

Civil Government.....	\$212,145 00
Legislation.....	120,050 00
Administration of Justice.....	365,316 51
Education.....	588,872 00
Public institutions maintenance.....	736,034 16
Immigration.....	6,850 00
Agriculture.....	142,287 00
Hospitals and charities.....	120,528 66
Maintenance and repairs of Government and departmental buildings.....	64,140 66
Public buildings.....	31,100 00
Public Works, repairs.....	11,600 00
Charges on Crown Lands.....	101,900 00
Statute consolidation.....	1,000 00
Miscellaneous expenditure.....	76,641 23
Unforeseen and unprovided.....	50,000 00

THE GRAND TOTALS.

1. Current expenditure for 1889.....	\$2,623,515 22
2. On capital account.....	557,845 57
3. Other purposes.....	25,567 66

Amount of estimates..... \$3,211,918 55