

THE LEGISLATURE.

ESTIMATES OF THE COMING YEAR DISCUSSED.

The House in Committee all the Afternoon—Items of Interest That Crop-ped Up—Mr. H. E. Clarke and His Summer Holidays.

FEBRUARY 19th, 1889.

The House sat all the afternoon, but in committee of supply most of the time. The proceedings of the House under those circumstances are usually not of overwhelming interest, but there were several matters came up to-day to relieve the usual tedium of supply routine.

Before this point was arrived at the usual number of petitions was presented and Mr. Field introduced a bill to enable the Town of Cobourg to issue railway debentures.

Then the House went into committee of supply, Mr. Harcourt in the chair. The first department taken up was that of civil government, and the first item taken serious exception to here was the proposed increase to \$2,200 a year of the salary of the Assistant Treasurer, Mr. D. E. Cameron. The increase was \$200.

Mr. Clancy argued that the principle that had been hitherto adhered to in the matter of increasing salaries had been that of long and efficient service. The present assistant treasurer had been but a few months in office, and could hardly claim on account of long service a higher salary than that paid for so many years to his predecessor. Why, then, was his salary increased so quickly?

Hon. A. M. Ross explained that the increase was due entirely to the qualifications of the official. In the present case, he thought, the House would agree with him that the salary as increased would not be too large for the gentleman receiving it. It was not good policy for the Government to employ too cheap men. It paid better in the long run to secure able men and pay fair salaries. He had no hesitation in saying that a man with the abilities of the present assistant treasurer would have a good chance of getting a larger salary if working professionally than that which the Government proposed to give him.

Mr. Creighton and Mr. Wood, of Hastings, each supported Mr. Clancy's objection. Mr. Ross gave a second brief reply, and the item then passed.

When the items for the Department of Agriculture were taken up, Mr. French wanted to know what was the total sum which the Province would have to pay consequent upon the appointment of the Minister of Agriculture. The House had been assured last year that the salary of the new Minister would be substantially the only increase made.

In response, Mr. Fraser drew Mr. French's attention to the figures contained in the printed estimates, which showed that the total increase was but an amount about equivalent to the Minister's salary.

Later on Mr. H. E. Clarke, who had been diligently investigating the estimates, discovered that according to the figures in the summary of the estimates and under the head of civil government the increase under the head of agriculture amounted to the large sum of \$21,000, the figures for last year being \$3,500, and for the current year \$24,500.

Mr. Clarke sent his shaft, and sat and smiled, while Mr. Fraser rose and pointed out what had been already pointed out several times previously, and what there was no need really to point out at all, namely, that the increased figures were accounted for by the taking over of the expenses of the head and staff of the Bureau of Statistics. Mr. Clarke still saw various difficulties in the way of his understanding the items of this department, and, like Oliver Twist, asked for more and more. Mr. Fraser gave the information asked for, but suggested that the same information might have been obtained by a personal reference to the printed estimates. A casual reference also to the speech said to have been prepared last summer and delivered last week by Mr. Clarke, appeared to hurt Mr. Clarke's feelings very much. He jumped up hurriedly and raised an objection to being lectured by Mr. Fraser, and said the Government ought to supply information asked without accompanying its delivery with a lecture. As to the age of the speech he had delivered last week, he vowed that

he could not be hurt even by a quotation from THE GLOBE. The discussion on the Department of Agriculture was closed by Mr. Waters, who remarked that although last year he had opposed the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture, and would do so again were the question to the front, yet he must do the Government the justice to say that they had kept their promise in the matter of increase of expenditure.

The sum of \$212,145 was then voted for civil government, as compared with \$198,845 last year.

The sum of \$120,050 (last year \$122,050) was voted for legislation, the items passing with slight comment; the only one, in fact, that met with much attention was the reduced estimate of \$57,000 for indemnity to members. The amount voted last year was \$60,000 and Mr. Creighton expressed the hope that the indemnity was not to be cut down. Mr. Creighton's apprehensions were removed by Mr. Hardy, and the committee continued. Concerning the item of \$25,000 for printing and binding, etc. Mr. H. E. Clarke uttered the queer complaint that he was inundated by reports on matters which were not of much interest to him or, he believed, to anybody else. He thought the printing of a good many of these could be dispensed with. An agricultural report which he had met with was an exception, and proved a very interesting volume.

Mr. Hardy pointed out in reply that some members were interested in one thing and some in another. Mr. Clarke himself, for instance, was interested in agriculture, and other members in other things. He believed all the reports printed were much used.

Hon. G. W. Ross said that the amount of the item for printing was largely increased by the number of returns called for by hon. gentlemen opposite.

The item of \$365,316 51 for the Department of Justice, was voted with little criticism. The amount voted last year was \$366,476 60.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

Mr. Armstrong—Thursday next—Bill to amend the Act respecting the establishment of municipal institutions in the Districts of Algoma, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Nipissing, Thunder Bay and Rainy River.

Mr. McKay—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Bronson—Thursday next—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

THE JESUITS.

THE JESUITS THAT AN ATTEMPT IS MAKING TO MOVE THE OPPOSITION.

As was stated in to-day's issue of THE GLOBE, the Opposition show amazing symptoms of inactivity, which, especially in the House, has developed into a mysterious silence. There is substantial reason for the statement that this moribundness has been caused by certain propositions made to the leaders of the party regarding the Quebec Real Estate Bill, the question being so momentous to their future as to throw even Meredith and his fellow-lieutenants into a state of complete inactivity. It is enough known that overtures have been made to members of the Opposition to change their sympathies with the ultra-conservative cry raised, by introducing a motion into the House declaring that the Real Estate Bill ought to be disallowed.

The leaders know full well that they could never receive the support of the Tory friends in the House who are so coated so as to relieve

the "Old Man" at Ottawa from any responsibility or embarrassment. They seek to make it appear that Sir John has allowed his opportunity of disallowance to pass, and quite naturally they suggest a resolution calling upon the Imperial Parliament to suppress the Act passed by the Mercier Government. The cry then is "to London," a scheme which has been concocted to quiet the rank and file of the Orange Lodges, to embarrass Mr. Mowat, to save the O. M. and place the Orangemen and the Tories on record as the saviors of Protestantism. It is believed that Mr. Meredith shudders from committing himself to a policy so dangerous in its consequences, which would mean that the Legislature of one Province assumes to itself the right of sitting in judgment upon the acts of another. But it is urged by the wire-pullers that the Irish question was discussed in the Assembly, and why not the cause of the minority of Quebec? It is rumored that strong efforts are being put forth to convene a monster demonstration of leading Protestants from all over the Province, to be held in the City of Toronto, and that resolutions will be submitted calling upon her Majesty to veto the Jesuits' Estate Bill. From the meeting delegates will be appointed to con-

vey the wish of the meeting to the foot of the throne, and when all that is secured, the Opposition, it is hoped, will move a similar resolution on the same lines in the House. If the resolution carries the hands of the delegates will be strengthened, and if it does not the Orange Lodges will once more resound with denunciations of the wicked Grits and everything will be lovely for the Tory Government at Ottawa. That is the scheme hatched by Tory organisers in the city during the last few days, and when viewed in the light of the inflammatory articles of The Mail it looks as if it will be pushed for all it is worth. The agitation has been raised and the only way to avert the storm from the head of the Federal Government is to make Ontario the battle ground, even at the expense of the Local House Opposition being sacrificed.

ASYLUMS.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF PRISONS AND PUBLIC CHARITIES.

The annual report of the Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities upon the condition of the lunatic and idiot asylums of the Province was presented to the House by the Provincial Secretary. In the Toronto asylum on 1st October, 1888, there were 356 male and 345 female patients; in London asylum 461 males and 456 females; in Kingston asylum, 325 males and 356 females; in Hamilton asylum, 317 males and 307 females. Taking these figures, it is found that there were 2,927 lunatics treated in the four asylums, and in Orillia asylum, which is set apart for idiots, there were 111 males and 99 females, thus giving a grand total of 3,137 lunatics and idiots cared for by the Province up to Oct. 1, 1888. There were admitted into the four asylums during the year 566 and into Orillia asylum 105 patients, making a total of 671. In the five institutions there were treated 3,808, while the total number actually under treatment was 3,939. In the same year the number discharged as cured was 136; improved, 57; unimproved or taken away, 28; discharged as not insane, 3. There escaped, 8; died, 182. The total number, discharged, escaped, died and transferred during the year was 545, and deducting these figures it is found that there were in the asylums of the Province on Oct. 1, 1888, 3,394 patients. The report goes on to give minute details regarding the counties from which the patients hail, and other information as to the length of time each patient has been in the asylum to which he may have been assigned or transferred. The trades, callings and occupations of patients admitted are also given. The table is an interesting study, the following being a few of the largest figures given:—Farmers, 116; domestic servants, 68; housekeepers, 165; laborers, 93; no occupation, 36; shoemakers, 7; seamstresses, 3; teachers, 9; merchants, 4; tailors, 6; ladies, 8; printers, 4; spinsters, 5; unknown or other employments, 150; tavern-keepers, 6. The total expenditure in Toronto Asylum was \$97,221 97; London, \$122,692 56; Kingston, \$90,287 55; Hamilton, \$108,433 54; Orillia, \$40,637 77, giving a grand total of \$459,373 39. In Toronto Asylum the yearly cost per patient was \$138 29; London, \$134 53; Kingston, \$131 50; Hamilton, \$158 37, and Orillia, \$158 93. The number of officers and employees in each of the asylums is as follows:—Toronto, 100; London, 126; Kingston, 79; Hamilton, 105; Orillia, 52—Total, 462. The population of the asylums of the Province has been increased during the past year to the extent of 257; the number being, in 1887, 3,137. In addition to those in the asylums belonging to the Province, there were 102 persons of unsound mind confined elsewhere, viz., 15 in the Home-wood Retreat, Guelph; in the insane wards of the Kingston Penitentiary, 29, and in the common gaols, 58.

AROUND THE HOUSE.

ITEMS GATHERED ABOUT THE LOBBIES AND THE DEPARTMENTS.

The salaries of the deputies of the Ministers are as follows:—Clerk of the Executive Council and Deputy Attorney-General, \$3,000; Deputy Minister of Education, \$3,000; Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands, \$2,800, an increase of \$200 over last year; Architect of Public Works Department, \$2,400; Assistant Treasurer, \$2,200, as against \$2,000 last year; Deputy Minister of Agriculture, \$2,200; Assistant to the Provincial Secretary, \$2,200, an increase of \$200 over last year's salary.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AGAIN RIGHT.

When the Attorney-General asked the House last session to concur in the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture, he predicted that the Department of Agriculture would be reorganised without increasing the public expenditure beyond the mere addition necessary for the salary of the head of