

intangible. Two or three instances of neglect of duty were specifically pointed to, and as to these searching inquiry is now being made. While too much weight is not to be attached to general and indefinite statements uttered in the heat of political debate, and founded mostly or wholly upon mere hearsay evidence, and in respect of which the member or person making the statement does not claim to have personal knowledge, and while I am fully satisfied that the inspectors and commissioners generally aim at an honest and efficient discharge of their duty, I feel called upon to direct your attention to the statements referred to, as reported in the public press, and to remind you that the government will continue to firmly insist on a strict compliance on the part of all its officials with the letter and spirit of the law. Further, in view of the statements made, it is my duty to remind you that political considerations should not be allowed to enter into or influence the administration of the law (if, as is alleged, they have heretofore found any place in that administration), but that they should stand aside, and that the law should be administered impartially and without reference to such considerations. A strict investigation into any irregularity, neglect of duty or charge of misconduct will be promptly held, and those of its officials who are shown to be neglectful of duty, careless, partial or incompetent, will not be retained in office. I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,
Richard Harcourt.

NOTES.

On the third reading of the Strathroy bonus bill, Mr. Wood (Brant) entered a strong protest against it. If, he said, the legislation of last session was wrong, the bill did not provide a remedy. The house had pronounced very strongly against class legislation, and sectional legislation was equally bad. It was, he thought, unfair discrimination to allow one town to give a bonus and yet prohibit another.

Before its third reading, a clause was inserted in Mr. Gibson's game law permitting foreigners who have paid the license fee to export fifty ducks.

Mr. Hiscott of Lincoln kept a watchful eye on Mr. Dryden's bill "For the better prevention of certain diseases affecting fruit trees," and, coming, as he did, from a central fruit district, his remarks were of considerable value.