

as I have been able to learn the public mind.—Jas. H. Coyne.

Mr. Hardy also read despatches from various business and professional men resident in St. Thomas. They were as follows :

From Robinson & McDonald—As solicitors, we have business almost hourly at Registry Office, and during business hours almost always find Mr. Coyne on duty. The work has been promptly, efficiently and satisfactorily done since Mr. Coyne's appointment.

From A. McCrimmon, Andrew Grant and R. H. McConnell—We corroborate telegram of Robinson & Co., touching Registrar.

From Andrew J. Clark, late Deputy Registrar of Elgin—Was Deputy Registrar of Elgin under two predecessors of Mr. Coyne, and under him, in all for eighteen years. He devoted, and does now devote, all his time to the office. He has simplified and improved methods, and is a careful and efficient officer.

From A. D. McGregor, Deputy Registrar of Elgin—Registrar attends office every forenoon and afternoon, with few exceptions ; exercises personal supervision over every part of work, including my own. Is usually at office four to five hours per day ; often longer.

Mr. Meredith objected to the principle of producing a document in the House to impeach the word of an hon. member. It was against the rules of procedure.

Mr. Hardy thought the circumstances of the afternoon were such as to justify the reading of these documents in the House.

The House then resumed consideration of the estimates.

ESTIMATES AGAIN.

Maintenance and repairs of Government and departmental buildings were then taken up, and under this head Mr. Meredith took exception to the large sum spent in coal for Government use. The sum was \$2,200, and this he thought excessive. The estimates had been prepared under Hon. Mr. Fraser's scrutiny and he was not present. Sir Oliver Mowat replied that Government House was really three houses in one and difficult to heat. The vote passed after some discussion. Various other items under the same head were passed with trifling discussions, the total being \$75,246.

The committee then rose and reported progress.

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

Before the House adjourned Mr. Meredith asked why an evening paper "near to the Government" had been put in possession of the scheme of redistribution which had been refused to the House. It was a breach of privilege, he thought, if the press were to have information which was not to be given to the House until early next week.

Sir Oliver Mowat replied that the report in question was pure invention. It was entirely unauthorized.

Mr. Meredith—Is it true ?

The Attorney-General—Anything contained in it that is not true the House will be informed of in due course. (Laughter.)

The House adjourned at 10.45 p.m.