

position of Mr. Fleming would imperil his reputation by taking any partizan stand in an investigation the Government would expect him to hold. His past and his future would be imperilled if he were to depart from a proper and common-sense course of conduct in such a case. He (the speaker) had no personal knowledge of Dr. Rae, but he was informed that Dr. Rae was a man of whom it could be scarcely hinted that he would take a partizan course in an investigation entrusted to him. It was unfair such a suggestion should be made, unless the person making it were possessed of information which he (the Treasurer) had not himself. He would be glad to hear of any good reason for such a suggestion. As to the charge that he had been slow in proceeding with the investigation, it was to be remembered that the late Treasurer and the late Minister of Agriculture had both looked into the matter. He had communicated with them as quickly as possible on the making of the charges, but at the time they were both out of town, and there was a little delay from that reason. As soon as he heard from these gentlemen he had asked the Government for a commission, though neither of them had thought there was any seriousness in the charges, from the investigations they had themselves made. He did not know Mr. Dorian at all, but when Mr. Fleming was appointed that gentleman wrote Mr. Dorian, and said he would have nothing to do with the matter; he seemed to object to Dr. Rae, and called it a whitewashing investigation. Mr. Fleming wrote three times, and, as Mr. Dorian was said to be ill, went so far as to offer to hold the investigation in his house. Mr. Dorian absolutely refused to have anything to do with the affair, thereby putting the commission to a good deal of disadvantage. Mr. Fleming had, however, proceeded very carefully and laboriously, and had examined the vouchers for the purchase of vaccine ever since 1882. He had addressed himself to these two propositions—had the Province lost a single dollar by the manner in which Dr. Bryce had purchased vaccine? or had Dr. Bryce made a dollar himself by the method in which he had purchased vaccine? Mr. Fleming had made a thorough investigation into both aspects of the question, and on both had reported in favor of Dr. Bryce. He regretted that Mr. Dorian, the gentleman who preferred the charges, had been unable from ill-health or any other reason to help the commissioners in their investigations; but, notwithstanding, he thought an investigation had been made that was entirely satisfactory, and that cleared Dr. Bryce of the charges preferred. In conclusion, he again avowed his willingness to have Dr. Bryce or any witness that might be named examined in the Public Accounts Committee in regard to the matter.

Mr. Meredith spoke briefly, stating that he did not know anything about the charges made, but that he thought there was something peculiar in their treatment by the Government. While not objecting to the appointment of Mr. Fleming to deal with this particular case, since Mr. Dorian himself suggested it, he yet thought it most reprehensible conduct on the part of the Government to have charges made against any of its departments investigated by officials which it could instantly and at any time dismiss. He made special reference to the Ontario Agricultural College investigation, holding that the appointing of Mr. Winchester to make the investigation was most improper, and that Mr. Winchester's report was partizan. But the appointment of Dr. Rae to the commission, and the lateness of the appointment, were, in his eyes, wrong. Why was Mr. Fleming's name announced first, and Dr. Rae's some time later in the day?

Hon. Mr. Harcourt explained that he had looked over some of the vouchers, and had seen that technical information would be necessary on the part of the commission. The name of Dr. Rae had been suggested to him, and he had appointed him forthwith.

Mr. Meredith—By Dr. Bryce?

Hon. Mr. Harcourt—No, Dr. Bryce did not know of his appointment.

Mr. Meredith thought it unfortunate that a member of the Provincial Board of Health, like Dr. Rae, should have been appointed. He then complained that while the minor charge, that the books did not balance, had been taken up, and perhaps disproved, the graver charge, that he had defrauded the Government in the matter of a portion of the discount to which it was entitled, had not been apparently investigated. Dr. Walsh of Washington, for instance, had not been examined. He accepted Mr. Harcourt's offer to have Dr. Bryce examined in the Public Accounts Committee, and hoped that they would have Dr. Walsh brought before it.

The motion then passed.

DR. BARR'S MOTIONS.

Dr. Barr (Dufferin) moved for an order of the House for a return of all convictions under the liquor license act in the County of Dufferin during the years 1892 and 1893. Also, of all moneys paid to the license inspector for salary and expenses.

giving the amounts paid for salary and expenses separately. Also, the particulars of all fines that may have been remitted. Also, the gross amount of moneys received by the inspector during the said term, and a detailed statement of the amounts disbursed by him during the said time, showing to whom and for what such disbursements were made.

The motion was carried.

Dr. Barr (Dufferin) moved for an order of the House for a detailed statement for 1893 of the fees and emoluments of the Registrar of Deeds for the County of Dufferin in connection with his office. He supported the motion in a speech of some length, objecting to the emoluments of the official in question, and to the grounds on which he was appointed.

This also was carried.

SECOND READINGS.

Public bills were then taken up.

Mr. White moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Division Courts act. He supported his bill in a short speech, stating that the bill aimed at the abolition of imprisonment for debt, which he thought unworthy of the country.

Hon. Mr. Gibson was not sure but that some changes might with advantage be made in the way of harmonizing the powers of the Division Courts and the High Courts. He was inclined to think that a good deal of the trouble existing was owing to the different opinions held by individual Judges, some inclining to a harsh interpretation of the law, while under others scarcely ever is anyone, except in cases of fraud or pure contempt, imprisoned for debt. He thought that a change might be made in the way of assimilating the practice of Judges in dealing with these matters. There might also be an amendment to the effect that Judges should take into account the means of payment a debtor possessed over and above the exemption allowed him. Mr. Gibson then referred to the inadvisability of frequent changes in the Division Court law, but promised that later in the session he hoped to be able to introduce a measure of amendment to the act, and was willing that Mr. White's bill pass its second reading and go to the Legal Committee, there to be considered.

Mr. Dack moved the second reading of his bill to amend the municipal act by adding a clause providing for the election of Councillors of towns by general vote.

The bill was withdrawn after several members had objected to it.

Mr. Mackenzie moved the second reading of his bill to amend the municipal act by adding a clause giving power to towns not separated from counties to license auctioneers, bill-posters and hawkers. The bill was read a second time.

HAWKING.

Dr. Barr (Dufferin) moved the second reading of his bill to amend the municipal act by having the word "hawkers" include "all persons who, not being resident within the county, sell or offer for sale dry goods, tea, watches, clocks, plated ware, silverware, jewellery, spectacles, pictures or photographs, or carry and expose samples or patterns of any such goods to be afterwards delivered within the county to any person not being a wholesale or retail dealer in such goods wares or merchandise." Dr. Barr discussed the question exhaustively, and showed that under the law as at present many abuses and wrongs to the public are possible.

Mr. Waters objected very strongly to any more restrictions being placed on the free sale of most of the articles named than were now in existence.

Mr. Whitney did not approve of the bill but thought some steps might be taken to limit the swindling that is too common especially in connection with the sale of pictures and photographs.

Mr. Meredith thought that the bill was very objectionable, in that it would lead down the liberty of trade and would destroy a large and perfectly legitimate branch of industry. Many persons who do a large and useful business through the country, and who had become accustomed to particular districts, would have their trade completely cut off by the passage of this measure, which would restrict them to the one county. This was apart altogether from the question of a license.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said he had been very strongly averse to the bill till he heard Dr. Barr's speech, when he must confess he had heard some good arguments for it. He had no objection to the bill going to committee to be dealt with there, though if the House cared to throw it out he would not object.

Mr. McKechnie, Mr. Clancy, Mr. Tait and Mr. A. F. Wood continued the discussion, and, the sentiment being evidently adverse to the bill, it was declared lost on a division.

ASSESSMENT ACT.

Mr. Dack moved the second reading of his bill to amend the assessment act in regard to the assessment of personal property. The bill declares that personal property shall be estimated at its actual