

THE BUDGET RESUMED.

Mr. St. John then resumed his speech on the budget. He began by criticizing the expenditures at the Ontario Agricultural College. He then passed on to the Public Accounts Committee, saying it should have been called much sooner than it was. He also complained that there were not enough facilities afforded for investigating the public accounts of the Province. In connection with the buying of cloth for uniforms by the Dominion Government, as referred to by Mr. Stratton yesterday, Mr. St. John doubted that gentleman's statement.

Mr. Stratton—If my hon. friend will allow me—

Mr. St. John—No, I will not allow you!

Mr. Stratton, however, explained that he had seen the item referred to in the Auditor-General's report regarding cloth which cost \$3 a yard.

Mr. St. John then proceeded, and first ridiculed the idea that meat bought by tender would be of an inferior quality. He complained of the high expense of administration of justice in the Province, and especially in York County. He concluded with an appeal for a pure Government in the Province.

MR. GIBSON REPLIES.

It was nearly 6 o'clock when Mr. Gibson, the veteran and popular member for East Huron, rose to reply. The previous speaker, he said, had gone too much into details; they should be left to the Committee of the Whole or the Public Accounts Committee. The gentlemen opposite had complained of the increase in expenditure since 1871, but they should remember the increase in population and territory since that date. No sane man would say that our expenditure now should be anything like what it was then. The money paid back to the Province, which had been previously lent to municipalities, has been profitably invested. If it had been invested in certain other ways it might have yielded a greater profit, but what good would it do? It would not have built the railways that have been built throughout the Province. It is a proper thing, Mr. Gibson contended, to compare our position with that of Quebec or the Dominion, for what else can we compare it with? The manner of disposing of the timber was discussed and settled in 1873 by a unanimous vote. The increase of 3,000 schools since 1871 means an increase of \$15,000 in the expenditure for inspection alone in the Education Department. It was through the efforts of the Reformers that there were not three semi-penitentiaries erected in place of the one Central Prison. It being 6 o'clock Mr. Gibson did not finish, but will conclude when the House meets to-morrow.

The House then adjourned.

STREAMS LEGISLATION.

Mr. Stratton's bill to amend the act respecting mills and mill dams provides that the apron now required by law to be constructed in dams on streams down which lumber is brought or in which salmon or pickerel abound shall be eight feet wide, by an inclined plane of twelve feet, to a perpendicular of six feet, instead of, as formerly, eighteen feet wide by an inclined plane of 24 feet 8 inches, to a perpendicular of six feet. The act further repeals the special provision contained in section 13 of the amended act as to the construction of aprons in dams on the Otonabee River.

The bill introduced by Mr. Gibson (Huron) to amend the assessment act amends the form of the oath to be made by the assessor at the end of his roll, and requires him to swear that he has assessed real property at its actual cash value, as it would be appraised as payment of a just debt from a solvent debtor, except as to lawns and farm lands in cities, towns and villages, for the assessment of which special provision is made in the assessment act. It also repeals the provision made in section 28 enabling the Council by by-law to enact that lawns, paddocks, etc., shall be assessed like other ground.

ARCHITECTS BILL.

The principal changes made by Mr. Garrow's bill to amend the Ontario architects act are that no principal is to be entitled to demand of or receive from any student any premium or money condition whatever as a condition of accepting such student as an apprentice. The original act imposed

a penalty for using the title "registered architect" without being duly authorized to do so. The amending act provides that the title "architect" shall not be used unless the person using it is registered under the architects act. The fees to be imposed by the Council are to be fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and the occasions upon which they may be charged are limited to registration as a student, assignment of articles, examinations, registration as an architect, annual fee to members.

Mr. Hobbs' bill to amend the municipal act provides that in case a Council of any city having a population of 30,000 or over, not exceeding 80,000, shall pass a by-law affirming the expediency of a new division of the city into wards, reducing the number of wards by at least one-third, the Lieutenant-Governor may, by proclamation, so divide the city, and afterwards four Aldermen are to be elected for each ward. The term of office in the class of cities mentioned is extended to two years, two Aldermen for each ward retiring annually. The act further provides for the re-division by the Council, upon the petition of 300 freeholders, of the new division, to be based as far as possible upon the assessed value, population and territorial extent, and in all cases where the new division is to reduce the number of wards by one-third or more four Aldermen are to be elected for each ward in the manner provided in the preceding clauses of the act. If the Council neglects or refuses to make a subdivision according to the petition, a commission may be issued by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council in the same manner as at the present time provided in the case of cities of 100,000 or over.

VOTING ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

Mr. Hobbs' bill to authorize cities to hold polls for municipal elections on New Year's Day enables the Council of any city by by-law, not later than the 15th of September, to provide that nominations shall be held on Christmas eve, or on the preceding day when Christmas Day falls on Sunday, in which case the polls shall be opened on the following Monday.

Mr. Chapple's bill to amend the municipal act repeals the provision which allows a person residing within two miles of a municipality to be elected to the Council, and substitutes the words "in an adjoining municipality in the same county," is that while a person must qualify for municipal offices upon property in the municipality for which he is elected, he need not be a resident of that municipality so long as he resides in the same county.

Mr. Hobbs' bill, An act to amend the Public Libraries act, 1895, provides that in cities, towns and incorporated villages where a petition has been presented by the Board of Management of a Public Library or Mechanics' Institute praying for the appointment of a Board of Management by the Council, that if a Public Library Board has already been appointed in such municipality the Municipal Council shall appoint such Board of Management of the Public Library or Mechanics' Institute after presenting such petition.

MR. HOWLAND'S AMENDMENT.

Mr. O. A. Howland is considering the advisability of moving an amendment to Mr. Crawford's motion when it comes up in the House. The amendment which he contemplates introducing opens as follows:—

"That the people of this Province have an interest in the correct construction of the provisions contained in the British North America act, respecting appeals from Provincial legislation on the subject of education under the 93rd section of the British North America act.

"That the Legislature of this Province is entitled to respectfully express its opinion for the consideration of the Parliament of Canada in respect to the case now there pending, in which a precedent is liable to be made affecting the possible future application of the above provisions of the British North America act to legislation in this Province and appeals therefrom."

It then, after some further references to the system of appeals, goes on as follows:—

"That the jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada arising out of appeals in respect to grievances created by Provincial legislation under these clauses being a purely remedial jurisdiction, that it is therefore essentially and wholly judicial in its nature, and that every step thereunder should be in harmony with the principles of judicial procedure.