

### Heir and Devisee Commission.

Mr. Hoyle took exception to the item of \$3,000 for the heir and devisee commission. He argued that the information vouchsafed recently by the Government showed there was no necessity for this commission and that they practically did little or nothing. In that case it ought to be set out in the public accounts why these Judges were paid \$1,000 each.

Hon. Mr. Hardy stated that it did not make the slightest difference financially whether the gentlemen in question were paid as Judges or as members of the heir and devisee commission. It would not lessen the financial burden to the Province to cease to pay them as heir and devisee commissioners, because they would still be entitled to draw the extra \$1,000 on account of the judicial functions which they discharged in common with the other Judges. If the heir and devisee commission should at any time be abolished, the necessity would be created of introducing a bill in order to put these Judges on an equal footing with the rest of their colleagues.

Mr. Hoyle referred to the findings of the law reform commission in order to show that he had high authority for reforms which he had urged in the House. He quoted the recommendation that no stamps or fees be allowed for the services as Local Master of a

Judge who received a salary. In the speaker's opinion the expense of administering justice in Ontario was increasing so rapidly that economy should be adopted wherever that was possible without impairing the efficiency of the department.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said no doubt the hon. gentleman could obtain considerable testimony in favor of getting rid of the payment of stamps. It must be remembered, however, that such a step would reduce the income of the Province and was therefore not in the interest of economy. No doubt, too, professional men would like to be freed from stamps and fees to Judges. The latter were not, however, appointed by the Province, but by the Dominion. When these appointments were vested in the friends of hon. gentlemen opposite they were not so desirous of making changes as they now professed to be.

The item passed.

### An Official Attacked.

Messrs. Matheson and Kidd took some exception to the item for Division Court inspection in which there is an increase of \$50 in a clerk's salary. Mr. Matheson found fault with the inspector for addressing his report to the Lieutenant-Governor instead of to the Minister in charge of his work. "It is about time this official was brought to his senses," "He thinks he is above Ministers, County Judges and everybody else," "I think the man wants to be sat upon," "He is a general nuisance," were some of the expressions used by Mr. Matheson in referring to the inspector.

Hon. Mr. Gibson spoke of the great improvement in the inspection of recent years, by which much greater promptitude in dealing with complaints has been rendered possible.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt, in justice to In-

spector Dickie, said that he could within twenty-four hours lay upon the table letters from many County Judges testifying to his great efficiency, and the high sense of the manner in which he discharged the duties of his office. He assured his hon. friend (Mr. Matheson) that when there is a well-founded complaint against the inspector he would invite him to sit with him in making an inquiry.

The item passed.

Several members of the Opposition made inquiries concerning the increase in the estimate for administration of justice in Parry Sound, Algoma, Muskoka and other districts.

The Attorney-General explained that the estimates in each case were slightly below the actual expenditure of last year. He pointed out it was imperative that the administration of justice be properly provided for in these districts.

The items passed.

Hon. Mr. Gibson explained that there had been a number of changes in the

staff of the Crown Lands Department, and that by the adoption of the general principle that newly appointed officials could not expect to commence where their predecessors left off, he had been enabled with an increasing staff, rendered necessary by the increase of work, to keep his estimates slightly less than before.

The item passed.

Before adjournment Mr. Whitney inquired when the Government bill for increasing the revenue would be brought down.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt replied that he expected to have the bill ready in a day or two.

The House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

### Want Good Roads.

Mr. A. W. Campbell, Provincial Good Roads Inspector, returned to the city yesterday after putting in last week in Perth and Bruce Counties. Large and enthusiastic meetings of farmers at Teeswater, Wingham, Atwood and Milverton were addressed by Mr. Campbell. The farmers of these districts have taken up the good roads question in earnest, and at the meetings resolutions were passed endorsing the recommendations and suggestions offered by Mr. Campbell and requesting the Municipal Councils to give effect to them as rapidly as possible.

### Fatal Results.

Dr. Bryce this morning received intimation that Mrs. Fern, the nurse who attended the smallpox patient in WOLFORD Township, had succumbed to the disease.

### Dunkin Act Repealed.

The License Department this morning received notice that on February 22, a vote of the ratepayers was taken upon the question of repealing the Dunkin act in South Colchester. The result of the vote was in favor of repeal by 108 to 38. But little interest was taken in the result, apparently, as there are 688 names upon the voters' list. This was one of the few municipalities where the old Dunkin act has continued in force since it was first adopted twenty-three years ago.