

We have nothing before us yet. The commissioners have made their report to the government, that report was sent to be printed months ago, and I should like to know when we are to have it?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I mentioned yesterday that I had received a part of the printing. I could bring down a part of it at any time.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—And when will the other part be printed?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I cannot tell.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Is it translated?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I could not tell the hon. gentleman. It is quite impossible.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—By reading it, the hon. gentleman could see if it is in French or in English.

THIRD READINGS.

Bill (SS) An Act to incorporate the Architectural Institute of Canada.—(Hon. Mr. Béique.)

Bill (TT) An Act respecting certain patents of the General Chemical Company.—(Hon. Mr. Kerr.)

JUVENILE DELINQUENTS BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE moved the second reading of Bill (QQ) An Act respecting Juvenile Delinquents.

He said: This Bill is copied in a great measure from the Bill introduced last session by the hon. Secretary of State, which was so favourably received by this House. The measure is intended to apply and extend the principle of the probation of offenders, as it was enacted in England as early as 1807. It was only in the last session of the British parliament, in 1907, that a measure was adopted to provide for the appointment of probation officers. I have here The Practical Statutes of 1907, edited by James Sutherland Cotton, a barrister at law, in England, and I find in the notes, accompanying the Act passed by the British parliament last year, the following amongst other remarks:

The triennial returns presented to parliament concerning the operation of the Probation of First Offenders Act, 1887, show that from January 1, 1888, to December 31, 1905,

no less than 50,289 persons were saved from prison under its operation in the Metropolitan Police District, the west riding of Yorkshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Durham. Of these only about one-tenth were called up to receive judgment, or are known to have been subsequently convicted of a fresh offence. But authorities agree that the beneficial results of the Act would have been greater if the persons whose sentences were suspended could have been assisted by a probation officer during their term of probation. The object of the present statute is to provide for the appointment of such officers and also to afford the means of avoiding a record of conviction altogether.

If we refer to the Act as passed by the British parliament in 1907 and which was merely extending the provisions already in the law, but providing for the first time for the appointment of probation officers, we find the following provisions:

(1) Power of courts to permit conditional release of offenders, 1 Edward 7, chapter 20. (1) Where any person is charged before a court of summary jurisdiction with an offence punishable by such court, and the court thinks that the charge is proved, but is of opinion that (1) having regard to the character, antecedents, age, health, or mental condition of the person charged, or to the trivial nature of the offence, or to the extenuating circumstances under which the offence was committed it is expedient to inflict any punishment or any other than a nominal punishment or that it is expedient to release the offender on probation, the court may without proceeding to conviction, make an order either,

(i) dismissing the information of charge;

or
(ii) discharging the offender conditionally on his entering into a recognisance, with or without sureties, to be of good behaviour and to appear for a conviction and sentence when called on at any time during such period, not exceeding three years, as may be specified in the order.

(2) Where any person has been convicted on indictment of any offence punishable with imprisonment, and the court is of opinion that having regard to the character, antecedents, age, health, or mental condition of the person charged, or to the trivial nature of the offence, or to the extenuating circumstances under which the offence was committed, it is inexpedient to inflict any punishment or any other than nominal punishment, or that it is expedient to release the offender on probation, the court may, in lieu of imposing a sentence of imprisonment, make an order discharging the offender conditionally on his entering into recognisance with or without sureties, to be of good behaviour and to appear for sentence when called on at any time during such period, not exceeding three years, as may be specified in the order.

3. The court may in addition to any such order, order the offender to pay such damages for injury or compensation for loss (not exceeding in the case of a court of summary jurisdiction ten pounds, or if a higher limit is fixed by any enactment relating to the offence, that higher limit) and to pay such