

office. In fact, his negligence was so notorious that it had passed into a proverb in the newspapers. The School Inspector should, at least, visit once a year the Schools placed under his charge; and if this regulation was properly carried out, "The Education Act" could not have failed in working beneficially. In the new Act he hoped that the supervision would, by and under proper arrangements, be conducted by the District Magistrates. He denied that the Scholars averaged, in each District, more than ten; and the country could not afford to pay £60 a year for so small an average. Mr. Arbuckle would do very well as a Schoolmaster, but he was totally unfit for the office of Inspector of Schools.

Hon Mr THORNTON could not but express his decided opinion that the present School Inspector was anything but the "right man in the right place."

Hon Mr HENSLEY said that fair statistics were wanting last session; and it was, therefore, the bounden duty, upon the part of the Board of Education, to have procured additional information before, this year, trying to amend the Education Act. Mr. Arbuckle's report was not, by any means, the best that could be obtained; every one could see that there was something wanting in it.

Hon Mr. WARBURTON complained of the present School Visitor, who was more expensive and less useful than the same officers were years ago. It would be very much better to have a competent Inspector for each County, and thus secure an efficient supervision of the whole educational establishment of the Island. He might cite many cases, with ample proof, that the present Visitor had not visited many of the Schools at all during the year; take Lot 11 for example.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH remarked that the question would of course come up again, notwithstanding he agreed, generally, that a more explicit report might have been prepared; the report was quite equal to the one they had received during the previous session. With regard to the average attendance, he quite agreed with the hon. the leader of the Opposition; but various causes were in operation to prevent a fair average attendance, or prevent its being kept up. The people themselves did not take sufficient interest in the matter, and looking upon the Education Act as a boon, upon that account took less trouble to keep up the average.

Hon Col GRAY stated that there was a letter from the Board of Education; and when that had been attended to, it would be the proper period to discuss the matter.

Hon J. C. POPE also complained that the report was not satisfactory; and somebody had been remiss in not having furnished a proper one. There must have been a great mistake somewhere, and he would, therefore, move "that the Report be not printed as an index to the Journals."

This resolution was seconded by the Hon A. Laird.

Hon Mr COLES agreed with the Hon Mr Pope; and Mr Arbuckle might well exclaim, "O! save me from my friends!"

Mr BRECKEN would suggest that when the statistical information was furnished by the Inspector of Schools that it should be printed.

Hon Col. GRAY said that, at present, the report was not in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Mr. BRECKEN—Still, as a public benefit, he believed it would be the better course to adopt the report and have it printed. There could be little doubt, but that as Mr. Arbuckle, their present school inspector, had become a politician, he must have been driven to the necessity of adopting that course. The question now at issue was, have the government have brought forward a measure for the improvement of our educational system; and when hon gentlemen objected to the reception of the report, they should seriously consider hereafter when the important question of education came up, the fact that the government brought in a Bill to amend a previous Act; and, put it to themselves, fairly, did Mr. Arbuckle get his information to assist in that matter from the government, or did the government obtain it for their own purposes from Mr. Arbuckle?

Hon. D. DAVIES felt bound to object to the printing of the report. There was something wanting in it; at the same time, he could but express his opinion that the thorough visitation of all the schools upon the Island, in one year, was too much labor for one inspector.

Hon. Col. GRAY said that last year no report from the School Visitor had been presented until the last day of the session, and the present report was a mere preamble from the Board, not at all in conformity with the requirements of the Act. It should have at once been referred back to the Board of Education. He should oppose its being printed until it was completed, when it could be printed and issued in the regular way.

Hon. J. LONGWORTH would agree to the withdrawal of the order, and letting the document lie upon the table, in order that it might be completed and printed; then, of course, if it was not completed it would not be printed.

Hon. Col. GRAY knew nothing whatever of the School Visitor, except through the Board of Education. He paid no attention to newspaper attacks.

Mr. McLENNAN supported, briefly, the views expressed by Mr. Brecken.

Hon. J. C. POPE urged that the motion, if adopted, would be supporting an inefficient officer. It was the express duty of the School Visitor to visit the schools, and report by a specified time. This duty had not been performed last year, and but very incompletely during the present.

It was ordered that the Report do lie on the table, and that it be not printed as an appendix to the Journals.

Hon. J. C. POPE presented the account of the Lunatic Asylum,—laid on the table.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to consider further of a Supply. Mr. McLennan in the chair.

Mr. HOWLAN objected to an item of £950 for light houses, and £115 for boats, crews, wages, uniform, &c., at Cascumpec. The returns from Cascumpec, for instance, were only £16 14s., or just about half her share of the annual expenditure. If