

Mr. LANCASTER. It could be left optional with the applicant whether he wanted the certificate or not.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. There are dozens of Bills that can be had for nothing, but it is only in case he requires the certificate of the clerk that he pays for it. The law is so very old that I do not wish to change it.

Bill reported; read the third time and passed.

DOMINION CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS ACT—AMENDMENT.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE (Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 13) to amend the Dominion Controverted Elections Act. He said: This is intended merely to arrange for the place of trial. At the present time the trial of an election petition may take place either in the electoral district in which it arises or in the chef-lieu of the district or vice versa, and there are times when that may become convenient. The second amendment proposes that the judges shall have the right to issue a bench warrant for a witness to appear. At the present time the only proceeding is by way of contempt and it is very unsatisfactory. What is wanted is that the witness should be compelled to attend.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE moved that the House go into Committee on the Bill.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to study this Bill a little before it goes through the committee stage. Has there been any suggestion from the judges with regard to this.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. Yes; from the chief justice of Manitoba. It is for the convenience of the judges and the witnesses. It enables the judges to move to where the witnesses are instead of bringing the witnesses to the place provided for the trial at present.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I realize the force of that, but I wish an opportunity to consider whether it may not operate as a hardship some times. Of course I know we must leave a good deal to the judges in that regard.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. It was represented that it was intended for convenience and for the purpose of reducing expenses.

The House resolved itself into Committee on the Bill and then rose and reported.

SUPPLY.

House in Committee of Supply.

Hon. Mr. FITZPATRICK.

Dominion public buildings, Ontario—renewals, improvements, repairs, &c., \$12,000.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. James Sutherland). This vote is to carry out works of repairs and renewals not covered by the general appropriation made by parliament and undertaken in the fiscal year 1903-4. I do not suppose my hon. friends will want me to read the whole list.

Mr. SPROULE. You might read it.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Most of the items are very small. The largest are: Belleville, \$2,170; Berlin, \$178; Brampton, \$14; Brockville, \$604; Chatham, \$704—something in connection with the water pipes.

Mr. CLANCY. Who is the person in charge at Chatham?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I think the work was let by contract. I forget the name.

Mr. WILSON. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Public Works whether his attention has been called to the state of the new Railway Committee room? The ceiling has been discoloured, I suppose because the roof leaks. It is a pity that a fine room like that should be spoiled because of a leaky roof.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. My attention has not been called to it. I shall be glad to make inquiries.

Fort William public building, \$22,300.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. This is to complete the public building being erected at Fort William. The contract was let on the 22nd of July last. The amount of the contract was \$20,400. \$5,000 has been voted before. The total expenditure estimated by the architect is \$27,551.61.

Mr. CLANCY. I understood the hon. gentleman to say that the contract was considerably less than the sum voted. What is the balance for?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The balance is for the fittings and furnishings, including the letter boxes, \$3,500; the heating, \$1,400; the wiring and electric light fixtures, \$500; incidental and travelling expenses, \$200.

Mr. SPROULE. Did you get the site for nothing?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes, a site free of cost to the Crown was given by the city corporation.

Mr. BROCK. Is the fitting up of the letter boxes not usually done by the postmaster, who receives the revenue from them?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. It depends on the size of the office. Pro-