

part, he (Mr. M.) would never fail to administer a suitable rebuke when he attempted such conduct towards him. If the hon. gentleman's powers of irony were greater than they are, he would always vindicate himself from insult as an independent member of that house. When he applied the term "supremely ridiculous" to him, he would remind the Provincial Secretary that it was just as easy for him to retort in the same style, and perhaps in harsher terms, and with more truth. He was amused at the hon. Attorney General, who gave as the reason for the delay in the Crown Land office—the difficulty of obtaining the proper evidence. He had no doubt that in some cases this difficulty was experienced, but what he complained of was, that there was no court to try the cases—that the committee of the Executive Council could not be got together, and that the arrears of business had accumulated in consequence of their neglect. He repeated, he was glad that he had brought this subject to the notice of the house, as he was inclined to think some good would come of it. Already he was informed that a number of undecided cases had been disposed of since his enquiry had been made, which, probably, would not have been the case had the question not been asked.

Hon. PROV. SECY. said that he was aware that in times past, in the heat of debate, his extremely amiable temper had been sorely tried, and no doubt he had occasionally said some pretty sharp things,—but he thought that the house would bear him out in the assertion that he had never so far forgotten himself as to allow anything that fell from the hon. member for Richmond to disturb the equanimity of his temper. If he had done so, he should be very much ashamed of himself. He did not say that that hon. gentleman had stated what was false, but he told him that he could not permit him to convey a false impression to the country as to the nature of the returns he asked for—and to convey the idea that there were over a hundred undecided claims, whereas the list he held in his hand only shewed forty-six. It was very evident that the object of the member for Richmond in making this enquiry was to find grounds for attacking the government and to charge them with neglecting the public business. He would advise him, however, in the prosecution of his praiseworthy researches for a grievance to care next time to make himself a little better acquainted with the facts before he undertook to bring it before the house. The leader of the opposition had also come to the rescue, but in doing so he had admitted enough to destroy the whole case—for he said that the proceedings connected with the investigation of these claims were analogous to those adopted in courts of law,—and everybody familiar with the practice of those courts knew, that with all the advantages of personal examination of witnesses, and the presence of judge and jurors, how much delay resulted and how overburdened the docket always was with arrears. If this was the case in courts of law, was it to be wondered at, that in cases where the witnesses resided one hundred miles away, and information had to be gathered by correspondence, that some delay should be occasioned.

Mr. MILLER begged to inform the hon. Provincial Secretary that he was not in the habit

of seeking advice from him, nor did he feel inclined to accept it when it was proffered. He did not think that hon. gentleman had ever used language more characteristic of himself than that contained in the first paragraph of the speech he had just delivered. He (the Prov. Secy.) had taken an unwarrantable liberty with the House, and with himself, in using the language he did. The hon. gentleman forgot that any one can be insolent—"that a scullion might call names." It was easy for any person to use contemptuous language, but he must remind the Provincial Secretary that he lowered himself in the estimation of the country, and degraded the dignity of the House by pursuing such a course. But when he looked around these benches and remembered that others had received like favors from at hon. gentleman's hands—when he recollected that not a year ago the hon. member for Yarmouth—whom all respected for his honesty of purpose and integrity of principle, had been assailed with coarse abuse—when he reflected that others of the Prov. Secy's. present supporters whom he now, no doubt, regarded as worthy associates, had in times gone by, felt the unjustifiable licentiousness of his tongue, he could well afford to treat such puerile remarks as they had just heard, with the contempt they deserved. He would not allow the Prov. Sec. to pervert his meaning, and to convey to the country an inaccurate idea of what he had really said. This was the chief object, and in this he had succeeded. Yet if he had allowed that hon. gentleman's version to pass uncontradicted, he did not fear but that a large portion of the people would have little difficulty in coming to the conclusion that it "lacked the essential element." He would not occupy the time of the house any further by replying to the observations of the Prov. Sec. for the best way to treat them was with contemptuous indifference.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON deprecated the warmth exhibited by the member for Richmond, who appeared to be always working himself into a passion about something or other. As regards the state of business in the Crown Land Office he would remark that when this government came into power, he was one of the committee of the Executive Council—and they were told that there was a large arrear of business. They went to work with the utmost energy and soon found why some of these cases had not been disposed of. He knew of no more arduous duties than these connected with this department, and in many cases the want of sufficient evidence rendered the decision extremely difficult. If as it had been remarked there were arrears in courts of law, it was not surprising it should be the case where they had not the same opportunities of obtaining evidences.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that there were some cases where there was no dispute and but one applicant—in these there should be no delay. He regretted the warmth that had arisen in this debate. It was better to discuss the matter calmly, and he thought enough had now been said on both sides.

EDUCATION ACT.

Hon. PRO. SEC. said,—I rise, Mr. Speaker, to introduce a bill for the better encouragement of education, and, in doing so, I may remark that although the government have not been able to lay it upon the table at an earlier period