

der this head, the estimate was \$11,200; the cost for these items in 1885-6 was \$30,545.06; that in 1886-7, \$32,684.89; that for 1887-8, \$17,150, a very material reduction; while that for next year, \$11,200, was \$19,345.06 less than the expenditure for 1885-6, and \$21,484.89 less than that for 1886-7.

The hon. gentleman proposed to point out here one or two reasons why the printing had cost so large an amount in 1885-6-7; also to point out what he thought the House would agree was irregular with reference to the mode by which printing had heretofore been paid for. The statutes of 1887, Cap. 20, Section 74, pointed out as follows, under what circumstances advances on printing might be made:—

"No payment shall be authorized by the auditor in respect of work performed or materials supplied by any person in connection with any part of the public service of Manitoba unless, in addition to any voucher or certificate, which may be required in that behalf, the officer under whose special charge such part of the public service is certifies that such work has been performed or such material supplied (as the case may be) and that the price charged is according to contract, or if not covered by a contract, is fair and just."

ADVANCES IN VIOLATION OF STATUTE.

He found that on the 16th January last—very close to the date when the late Government stepped down and out—they paid the Canadian Publishing Co. \$1,000 as follows: On account of statutes of 1888, \$400 (none delivered); bills, \$250 (none delivered); votes and proceeding, \$75 (one copy delivered); orders of the day, \$25 (one copy delivered); journals, \$100 (none delivered); sessional papers, \$150 (none delivered). Five bills were handed to the translator on the 12th January, and two on the 13th; no more until the 17th. It was safe to infer that but little, if any French printing had been done on the 16th. Advances under those circumstances were in direct contradiction to the terms upon which they might be made. He found also that there was an advance made on the 14th of January, and it was drawing pretty close to the date when an election took place close to the city. The advance was of \$400 paid on account of printing the public account. He found that three pages (presumably the title page and the letter addressed to His Honor) were sent by the Queen's printer, G. Bourdeau, to the Tribune Review, to be printed on Dec. 30th, 1887. The first few pages of the MS of public accounts proper, were sent on Feb. 8th, about 25 days after that advance of \$400.

Attention was next drawn to another little printing matter which had cropped up very unexpectedly and came very prominently before the Provincial Treasurer within the last few weeks. A great deal was said during the general election of December, 1886, in reference to the printing of the reports of the Department of Agriculture, Statistics and Health.

(Hear, hear.) This report came out, in the opinion of many, at a date later than it was desirable it should appear, if it was to be of any considerable benefit. Others said that it would be read with just as much interest four or five years after that date as if it came out at the close of the year. He proposed to show

WHERE THE PRINTING HAD BEEN DONE

under what circumstances, at what cost to the Province, what company did the work, and what it actually got for that work. He again had to express his regrets that the member for St. Boniface, the late Provincial Treasurer, was not in his place. He had seen that gentleman in the House at 3 o'clock, and fully expected from time to time that he would take his seat on the floor of the House. For some reason he had been unable to do so. He would be obliged to allude to certain matters in the same manner as if the hon. member were present. The English report for 1882 of the department referred to was printed by the Government (2,500 copies), the work being done by the Gazette Printing Co. of Montreal, and paid for in 1883, the cost being \$1,721.08; this appeared to be quite regular. The English report for 1883 did not appear to be quite so regular in the interests of the Province. He found that the total cost of the work for that year was \$4,898.03, which amount was paid in 1885 to the Times Printing Co., of Winnipeg, in four several cheques, dated Feb. 25, March 22, April 2 and July 18. In addition to paying this to the Times Printing Co., he found that the Government paid \$79.30, cost of freight on the work after it was done, from Montreal to Winnipeg, making \$4,978.23. The work was actually done by John Lovell & Sons, Montreal, who have billed the present Government for a balance of \$4,132.90, claimed to be still due them. The latter circumstance brought to his (the provincial treasurer's) notice the facts now stated. The actual cost of the work, as per account rendered, was \$2,132.90, including the express charges; and this should have been paid to John Lovell & Sons for work for which the Province paid \$4,978.23 to the Times Printing Co., who made the payments to the former.

With reference to the French printing, it was found that there was billed to the Government by the Canadian Publishing Co. the printing of the report of the Department of Agriculture, Statistics and Health for 1882. The total paid by the Province for the work was \$1,640.71; but this also was done by John Lovell & Sons, Montreal, and the actual cost amounted to \$755.50; so that the Canadian Publishing Co. made a profit of \$885.21, or considerably more than the cost of the work itself. The report for 1883 was printed at a total cost to the Province of \$5,383.70 which was paid for in five several cheques during 1885-6-7, the bulk of it being paid in 1887.