

There is an increase in the expenses charged, as compared with last year, of \$6736.20. Of this sum twelve hundred dollars is properly chargeable to last year, being the amount awarded by the Railway Committee at the last Session of the Legislature, to Contractors, for upholding.

This increased expenditure is the result of the large outlay on permanent way and fencing. On fencing alone there has been expended the sum of \$5,184.88, against \$403.55 for the same service last year. For this expenditure the Road Inspector reports, that in addition to the fencing partially repaired, nearly *twenty-two* miles of fence was taken down and rebuilt, and new posts and rails replaced for decayed ones; and two and one-fourth miles of entirely new fence built on the Windsor Branch. The Road Inspector reports that up to 30th September, 1894, a total of 36,312 new sleepers were put into the road, exclusive of new sleepers used in the construction of sidings. For this branch of the service the outlay exceeds that of last year by \$5,569.02.

A perusal of Mr. Marshall's report will show a great deal of work done during the season in repairing, and, in many cases, rebuilding, culverts and drains, in constructing necessary sidings for the accommodation of the increasing traffic on the road, and in the general repair of stations and buildings. The roadway has been kept in excellent repair, and there is every reason to believe that, at the close of the season, it will be in good condition to meet the exigency of our winter climate.

The Report also adds that the constant and heavy work is beginning to tell very heavily on the rolling stock, more particularly on the freight and flat cars.

PETITION.

Mr. S. Campbell presented a petition from the merchants of Port Mulgrave, in the County of Guysboro, asking that a bonded warehouse may be established at that place.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table copy of a communication from the Adjutant General relative to the issue of swords to the Militia.

Also, a copy of correspondence relative to the appointment of Hon. Jas. McDonald as Financial Secretary.

Also, correspondence asked for by the hon. member for Victoria respecting the appointment of Murdoch McLeod as Inspector of Statute Labor.

LICENSES.

Mr. Tobin presented a petition of magistrates, miners, and others at Tangier, asking for an alteration in the license law. The hon. member stated that a similar petition was presented, and a bill in accordance therewith was introduced, by himself last session, but the House would take no action in the matter. Two years' experience of the license law had proved that it had not the tendency to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors. On the contrary, a number of unlicensed grogeries had grown up along the Eastern shore and in the neighborhood of Tangier. The petitioners feel that a house of entertainment is necessary at Tangier, for the accommodation of travellers.

The hon. gentleman then introduced a bill to amend chap 19, R. S., of the sale of spirituous liquors.

BILLS, &c.

Mr. ROBERTSON introduced a bill to alter the time of holding the general sessions in the district of Barrington, Shelburne county.

Mr. KILLAM presented a petition from Yarmouth in reference to a light house at Little Hope.

Dr. HAMILTON presented a petition from E. C. Foster and others, inhabitants of Berwick, in reference to the opening up of an improved line of road as a mail route.

Mr. LAWRENCE presented a petition from a number of the inhabitants of Kenetcook, Hants, asking for authority to sell a school lot.

SECOND READINGS.

The bills to incorporate the Union Engine Co., and to amend the act incorporating the Union Protection Company, were read a second time, and referred to committee on City bills.

THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF MARRIED WOMEN.

Dr. HAMILTON moved the second reading of the bill which he introduced on the first day of the session, entitled an act "for the better protection of the rights and estates of married women." He stated that the bill was intended to protect women who have property before, or acquire it after marriage, from the incapacity or bad conduct of their husbands. He alluded to the evils that intemperance created in households, and the necessity that existed for preventing intemperate men destroying or wasting the property that women may acquire through their own individual industry.

Mr. TOBIN said that the bill went to create a very radical change, and should not be hastily considered. He was in favor of the protection of the rights of married women as far as possible, but at the same time he was hardly prepared, until after more deliberation, going to the extent the bill went. He therefore thought the bill should be sent to the committee on law amendments.

Mr. BLANCHARD said that now was the proper time to settle the principle of the bill. Although he was ready to protect married women as respects their property, yet he thought the bill was rather too sweeping in its character. The first clause went to make the property, real or personal, owned by the wife before marriage, not responsible for the husband's debts. That was a change startling to all of us who were accustomed to look upon the property of the wife as that of the husband.

Hon. FIN. SECR. said that he was sure that on reflection the house would consider the change proposed as one founded on equity. When they reflected on the necessity of the change, they could not but express surprise that it had not been brought about before this. The principle now was that a woman, on becoming married, was dead in law. No matter what her position or property might be, the moment the nuptial knot was tied, she was divested of all her rights. He could not see anything repugnant to justice or common-sense in the bill before the house—that was to afford a woman protection against the conduct of her husband. How often did we see men, who could not be charged with cruelty in the direct sense of the term, but who were of such extravagant habits as to run through, in a very short space of time, the property of their wives, and