

was employed to investigate the prices of scythes and axes. 4. In the United States. 5. Mr. Belton's pay for a portion of the time was \$2 per day, and later \$2.50 per day and travelling expenses. Mr. Atkinson's pay was \$2 per day and travelling expenses. Mr. Hawthorne received an allowance of \$110.70, including travelling expenses. 6. As to Mr. Belton and Mr. Atkinson, I am not aware what business they were engaged in at the time they were employed in the Customs service. As to Mr. Hawthorne, I understood that he was connected with the manufacture of scythes and axes, and harvest implements, and it was because of his technical knowledge of the values, qualities and markings of the various brands of scythes and axes that the department secured his services. 7. Though having no particular knowledge of the matter, I presume that Mr. Hawthorne resumed his former employment, as he was engaged in the work of the department for only a few weeks. Mr. Atkinson is making no further investigation.

JUDGES OF PROVINCIAL COURTS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER moved that, on Friday next, the House resolve itself into committee to consider the following resolution :—

That it is expedient to amend the Act respecting the judges of provincial courts by repealing section 14 and substituting the following therefor :—

" 14. If any judge of a Superior Court who has continued in the office of judge of a Superior Court in Canada, or in any of the provinces, for fifteen years or upwards, or who becomes afflicted with some permanent infirmity disabling him from the due execution of his office, resigns his office, Her Majesty may, by letters patent under the great seal of Canada, reciting such period of office, or permanent infirmity, grant unto such judge an annuity equal to two-thirds of the salary annexed to the office he held at the time of his resignation, to commence immediately after his resignation, and to continue thenceforth during his natural life.

" 2. Courts of Vice Admiralty and the Maritime Court of Ontario shall be deemed to have been Superior Courts, local judges in Admiralty of the Exchequer Court to be judges of a Superior Court, and stipendiary magistrates within the North-west Territories to have been judges of a Superior Court, within the meaning of this section."

Motion agreed to.

PENITENTIARY ACT.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER moved second reading of Bill (No. 66) further to amend the Penitentiary Act. He said : The Bill is mainly for the purpose of enabling the Federal Government to enter into arrangements with the various provincial governments or local authorities regarding the care of criminal lunatics. It was proposed some time ago, as the House will remember, to ask for a grant to enable the federal authorities to obtain a suitable

building in connection with the Kingston penitentiary for this purpose. That expense will be saved and every desirable purpose attained in this connection by the adoption of this Bill. For instance, instead of the authorities being compelled, as heretofore, to pardon the criminal lunatic, the lunatic now will be transferred, if we can make arrangements with local authorities—and I do not think there will be any difficulty in doing so—to one of the provincial asylums, and should it turn out that the insanity was feigned or should the lunatic recover his senses before the expiry of his term of imprisonment, this Bill gives the federal authority power to send him back to the penitentiary for the balance of his term. The first clause is perhaps not absolutely necessary for this object, but it was deemed best to insert it here in consequence of some experience of the administration of the department. It provides that the Governor in Council may, when the incumbency of the present accountant expires by death or otherwise, abolish his office, in which case the duties will devolve upon the inspector, who, it is believed, will be able to discharge satisfactorily the duties of both offices.

Mr. EDGAR. I suppose the hon. Minister of Justice has considered the question whether the simple certificate of the surgeon of the penitentiary is as much evidence of insanity as is required by the various local governments, in ordinary cases, to admit patients into their asylums for the insane, because it would be rather a pity to have any dispute on that point later. Very likely more stringent provisions are required in the provinces before they admit ordinary patients. When in committee we can get further information on that point. Then there is the other question about arrangements with the Lieutenant-Governor as to payment, and so on.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Exactly, we could not put any one there without their authority.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee.

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

Mr. LAURIER. I would imagine from this first section that the Minister of Justice is of opinion that the office is useless. If such be the case, why not abolish the office at once ?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. We may reach that conclusion, but I would not be warranted in stating, as a matter of fact, that we have the material on which we could reach that conclusion positively. The impression is that the present inspector will be able to do the work, but he has only been in office a short time. He is a particularly good accountant and a man in the vigour of life, and we expect to be able to do this ;