

matter diligently the whole work of the commission should be completed by the end of the present year. I am writing to each of the commissioners urging the importance of accomplishing this. I think, in view of the assurances I have, that I can certainly answer that the work of the commission will be finished in time to admit of this.

The vote I am now asking for will make the whole expenditure to date, \$57,641. The amount estimated to finish is \$21,000, so that the total estimated cost will be \$78,641. This estimate does not include the cost of final printing.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. When did the commissioners begin their work of revision?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. If they complete their work by September they will have been three years and a half at work.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It seems to me in view of the time that has already been occupied, we might have expected the work to be done so that we could have had it during the present session. I do not remember how long the previous revision occupied.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Over five years. The work began in 1881. I find the first payment was made to the Hon. Jas. Cockburn, commissioner, in 1881-2; and the work continued on down to 1887-8.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The minister must have the exact dates, but my recollection is that the commission were actually at work a very much less time than that.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The reference I have is taken from the public accounts. In the year 1881-2, provision was made for the payment of the Hon. Mr. Cockburn, commissioner, and again in 1882-3, then the regular payments began on August 14, 1883.

Mr. LENNOX. Speaking of the revision of the statutes, I would like to mention a matter which perhaps does not come under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Justice, but this affords me an opportunity of doing so. I refer to the indexing of the statutes in the library, or rather keeping them annotated up to date. Those statutes are almost useless in their present condition. You have to gather from year to year all the changes and amendments, and it is almost impossible when a question comes up in the House, to ascertain within half an hour what the law is. It does appear to me that there should be in the library officials quite competent to do that kind of work, and if they are I think they should do it; if they are not, it would be well to employ some one competent to do that kind of work and keep the library up to date in that respect.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. This is a matter that properly comes under the consideration of the Library Committee. But I think the time is opportune to draw attention to the fact that our House of Commons library, so

far as legal works are concerned, is very defective. In fact some of the works there are becoming obsolete. The impression appears to have gained ground that since the Supreme Court has been established and we have a Supreme Court library, we must depend upon the latter. I recognize the necessity of providing for some one to annotate the statutes so as to keep them up to date.

Mr. LENNOX. I note what the Minister of Justice says about the books. When you go into the library and do not find the books, you have to go down to the Supreme Court, and you have not been there more than half an hour perhaps before the court is closed and you have to get out.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The law department of the library deserves a little more attention than it has been receiving. I have had some difficulty myself in endeavouring to examine legal questions in connection with matters that come up in the House. There is a difficulty now and then in not being able to obtain in this library the books that are necessary for your purpose. I quite understand why those in charge of this matter would desire to curtail the legal department of the library as much as possible, because there is a great lack of room, not only for law books but for others, and that is a matter that will have to engage the attention of the government and of parliament before long. But apart from any difficulty of that kind, I agree entirely with what the Minister of Justice has said as to the necessity of keeping up the law department in the library, because we have almost as much occasion for research of that kind in parliament as those who are engaged in the work of the Supreme Court.

Some resolutions reported.

INSPECTION OF WATER METERS.

House went into committee to consider the following proposed resolution.

Resolved, That it is expedient to provide for the inspection of water meters, and to authorize the Governor in Council to fix the fee for such inspection.—Mr. Brodeur.

Hon. L. P. BRODEUR (Minister of Inland Revenue). This resolution is designed to prepare the way for the inspection of water meters in the same way as gas meters and water meters are now inspected. The rates are to be fixed by the Governor in Council. The intention of the department is to provide that the fees shall be about the same as gas meters, ranging from 75 cents to \$6.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is it compulsory or optional?

Mr. BRODEUR. It is compulsory.