

the same as business men have to make. Then we have renewals of furniture, etc., a considerable item. This would be a matter that it would be impossible to tender for to any advantage; in fact it could not be done. Then we have travelling expenses, \$930. Schools and religious instruction, \$3,395. How could we arrange to tender for that great advantage, which is given to the different institutions of the Province? Then we have for postage, telegraph and express the sum of \$1,879. Then a lot of miscellaneous articles: wire work, inspection of weights and measures, etc.—a number of items, a great long list of them, each one of them enumerated here, making up that total list amounting to \$26,904. I am willing to submit that list to any practical business men, inside or outside of this House, and they will say that they could not see it to their own advantage to ask tenders for any articles in that list.

Then the total sum we have left is \$66,152, which is debatable ground as to whether they ought to be purchased, by tender or not, and I have taken a little pains to look into that because this is an annual motion that comes up in this House, and perhaps a wrong impression has sometimes gone out in the country in reference to it, and it perhaps might not be a waste of time to go into it very fully so that it may be seen where we stand with reference to this matter. Paints and oils, \$3,815; Tea, etc., \$9,498; Sugar, syrup and kindred articles, \$16,823; Salt, pepper, mustard, etc., \$1,904; Cheese, \$2,785; Disinfectants, soap, etc.—I suppose that would include sal soda and articles of that description—\$12,585. These are the articles of which that bulk sum, \$66,000, is composed.

There is the analysis for the last fiscal year of the expenditure of all the money in connection with the public institutions of the Province, and I submit to the members of this House whether, even in the debatable ground of \$66,000, there are articles which could be purchased to advantage by tender. I have tried to give some thought to that, and from my business experience I have not been able to see where an article could be added to the list of goods purchased to advantage by tender. If I could see it I am sure it would be added to the list of those articles for which we ask tenders.

#### BUYING BY TENDER.

This question of buying by tender is not a new question, but an annual question; and I want to ask the consideration of the House for a moment to the experience of a Government