

BLUE BOOK FOR 1866.

A great disparity will be observed in the amount of collections from the different counties; a disparity it is not easy to account for. This is especially noticeable in respect to the Fee Fund stamps for the Local and Inferior Courts. Not to speak of York and Peel, which gives a sum of \$6,004 05, there is the County of Simcoe giving \$2,682 99, the County of Wentworth, \$1,939 11, the County of Waterloo, \$1,854 40, or a total for these three counties of \$6,526 50, as compared to a total of \$976 85 (or one-seventh nearly) for the following three counties, viz.: Essex, \$54 63, Prescott and Russell, \$418 72, Lambton, \$503 50. There has been a great falling off in the business of the courts this last year it is true, but a comparison with similar returns ten years back, and before the stamp law came in force, will exhibit somewhat similar results, viz.: \$16,748, as compared to \$2,500, (one-seventh nearly) in the year 1857. Thus—

Fee Fund for 1857, shows:

Wentworth \$6,878 ..	Essex	\$875
Simcoe ... 5,248 ..	Prescott & Russell	991
Wellington 4,482 ..	Lambton	1,234
		\$16,748
		\$2,500

The statement of the Fee Fund account shows for the whole of Upper Canada a deficit after payment of the salaries of thirty-two County Judges and five Recorders, and \$6,400 towards travelling expenses of the County Judges of \$47,833 21; and this is the whole deficit, for, as we have already observed, there is nothing left to be paid clerks or other officers. But in other years the fee fund has given a surplus to the general revenue fund. In the year we have already referred to, 1857, there was a surplus of \$24,797, contributed by the litigants in the Local Courts (after paying the whole establishment of these courts), to the general revenue of the Province.

So much just now as to law stamps.

The expenses connected with the administration of justice for Upper Canada, as gathered from this volume, would seem to be a large sum, until we come to examine the details, and then it may safely be said that that no public officers are, on the whole, paid with more regard to economy in relation to the amount of work they do (and that work, so far as the judges are concerned of the most exhausting kind), and to the amount of knowledge, intelligence and education required.

The total amount, including the salaries of the county judges already referred to, and all other matters is \$340,969.30, classed under the following heads:

For Salaries to Judges of the Courts of Error and Appeal, Queen's Bench, Common Pleas & Chancery	\$39,526 35
Salaries to 32 County Court Judges and five Recorders (and including \$6,400 allowed for travelling expenses of Judges).....	91,131 16
Officers of the Queen's Bench and Common Pleas, and Deputy Clerks of the Crown, and contingencies..	25,421 57
Officers of the Court of Chancery and contingencies (including the salary of the Surrogate clerk)	14,008 40
Court of Impeachment (salary of clerk)	200 00
Circuit allowances (common law and equity)	11,200 00
Criminal prosecutions (paid to 40 crown counsel).....	10,725 85
Administration of Criminal Justice (amounts paid by Treasurers, &c.)	128,648 89
Miscellaneous items (being principally for the administration of criminal justice and crown suits and prosecutions)	19,101 83

Of course it is impossible to say exactly how much of the total sum is for the administration of criminal justice, but it will easily be seen that a large proportion of the expenditure is for that purpose. Besides the last three items, which have particular reference to the administration of criminal justice, a share of the salaries of the judges of the Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and the judges of the County Courts as chairmen of the Quarter Sessions and Recorders, and the salaries of the officers of these courts must be charged to the administration of criminal justice. The expenses of the Penitentiary, Reformatories and Prison Inspectors (\$190,748 50, less the receipts from Penitentiary and Reformatories, \$47,707 69, leaving a balance of \$143,040 81), are also of the same nature.

It is curious to compare the figures that to a certain, though very imperfect manner represent the civil and criminal business in the different counties, and to make this more clear we subjoin a statement of the amounts paid to the Treasurers of the different counties for criminal justice:

Brant, from June, 1865, to March, 1866	\$8,750 01
Carleton, " " "	4,263 99
Elgin, " " Dec, 1865..	4,228 97
Essex, " " March, 1866	2,907 86
Frontenac, " " "	4,434 60
Grey, " " "	3,253 33
Haldimand " " "	2,790 61
Halton, " " Dec, 1865..	1,619 76
Hastings, " " March, 1866	3,238 46