

SECOND REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Committee beg to report that in their opinion it would be in the interest of the public service that the expenditure of all money voted one session by the Legislative Assembly should be known to it at its next session, and that it should also know the balance with which the financial year terminates before passing the Estimates for the following year.

That this is impossible with the Legislature meeting in January or February so long as the financial year does not close until the 30th June.

Your Committee favour a financial year ending the 31st December, so that moneys can be voted by the members of this Assembly with an intelligent appreciation of the financial situation of the Province.

Your Committee, however, now refrain from recommending a change, as the Estimates to 30th June, 1881, have been passed.

In the opinion of your Committee, any sums estimated as necessary to complete the service of any current year should be brought before the House as a Supplementary Estimate for that year instead of being included in the votes for the following year.

Your Committee recommend that as soon as possible after the public accounts to the 30th June (the end of the financial year) have been printed, copies should be sent to members, instead of awaiting the next meeting of the House for their distribution.

WM. WILSON,
Chairman.
