

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

Attorney-General MOWAT moved that on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, during the remainder of the session, Government orders of the day be called after the other orders.

## HABITUAL DRUNKARDS.

Attorney-General MOWAT, in the absence of Mr. Pardee, moved that the House will, on Friday next, resolve itself into a Committee to consider the following resolution:—That there be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of this Province the sum of — dollars, for the purpose of establishing an Hospital for the reclamation and cure of habitual drunkards.

Mr. CAMERON asked if the Government had selected the site for this hospital, and had got the estimates and plans, or were prepared to give the House any information on the subject.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that the order was only that on a certain day the House should go into Committee. The discussion of the matter would only come, on according to custom, when the motion was made for the Speaker to leave the chair.

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR said the plans and estimates were prepared, and if necessary could be brought down to-night, but he had thought that the discussion would properly come on later. The Government would submit the place where it was proposed to erect the institution when the resolution came up for discussion.

## AGREEMENTS BETWEEN MASTERS AND WORKMEN.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS moved that the Bill to facilitate agreements between masters and workmen for participation in profits be read a third time.

Mr. CAMERON said he understood that the class of the community the Bill was understood to benefit did not like the term master; they preferred the word "employer."

Hon. Mr. CROOKS liked the old fashioned Saxon term, and was not in favour of weakening the force of the Anglo-Saxon language.

Mr. CAMERON said there was no objection to the word "workman," though if a man was working under contract he was not a workman in the sense generally understood.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS replied that the term meant a man who had chief control of a work, and who was devoting all his energies in forwarding his undertaking.

Mr. CAMERON said that if it had been an old Tory like himself it would have been all right to hold to old terms, but he thought that, under a Liberal Government, no such course would have found favour.

The Bill was then read a third time and passed.

## MECHANICS' LIENS.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS moved that the House receive the report of the Committee on the Bill to establish liens in favour of mechanics, machinists, and others.

The report was received, and the third reading ordered for Tuesday next.

## DRAINAGE WORKS.

The House went into Committee on the Bill to authorize the investment of certain monies in debentures, to be issued for the construction of drainage works by municipalities, Mr. Farewell in the chair.

The report of the Committee was received, and the third reading ordered for Tuesday next.

## PUBLIC HEALTH.

Attorney-General MOWAT moved the second reading of the Bill respecting the public health. He said that his attention had been called to the matter by several medical gentlemen who were interested for the public health during the coming summer. There was great doubt now as to whether there were legally any provisions on the subject of the public health at present. The first seven clauses of the Bill corresponded with the Upper Canada Statute on the subject, and the remainder corresponded very nearly with the clauses of the Consolidated Statute of Canada.

Mr. CAMERON pointed out that some of the clauses referring to shipping might be claimed to come under Dominion authority.

Attorney-General MOWAT said he had considered that point. There was great doubt on the subject, and he had thought

it better to legislate than that so important a matter should be left unattended to.

After some further discussion the Bill was read a second time.

## QUEEN'S COUNSEL.

The order for the second reading of Bill respecting the appointment of Queen's Counsel being called,

Mr. CAMERON said that as this was an important constitutional measure and he had not had time to look into it he would prefer that it be postponed until next Government day. Although the Bill involved a great question of prerogative it was not of the slightest importance to the country.

Attorney-General MOWAT said surely his ears must have deceived him in leading him to suppose that the leader of the Opposition, who was continually calling out that Government business should be hurried on, was now a king for the delay of a Bill. This question had been discussed by the press even more than the Municipal Loan Fund. No doubt the hon. gentleman had made up his mind.

Mr. CAMERON said the Government had passed over eight of their measures which had been on the paper for some time, and taken up this one, which had only been introduced on the 31st of January.

Attorney-General MOWAT said that since the end of January to the present time was two weeks, and that was long enough for the House to consider the matter. If the hon. gentleman had not made up his mind on the subject, he was the only lawyer in the country who had not done so. He did not consider that anything would be gained by delay; and if his honourable friend had any suggestions to offer he could do so when the Bill was in a future stage. The honourable gentleman proceeded to say that, by the express provisions of the Confederation Act, section 92, it was laid down that the Provincial Legislatures were to have power to appoint and provide for the payment of all officers connected with civil and criminal jurisdiction. There were several trains of argument by which it seemed to him that it could be shown that this Legislature had power to pass an Act of the kind now before the House. The Legislature of Quebec had taken the view that it was within their power to appoint Queen's Counsel, and that view had been concurred in by both political parties. He held that it was the undoubted right of Provincial Legislatures to appoint Queen's Counsel. Within the jurisdiction of this Province was the administration of justice, and for the administration of justice Queen's Counsel were necessary. All our Crown Lands were within the jurisdiction of this Province, and Queen's Counsel were often required to conduct business in which such lands were concerned. These gentlemen were standing Counsel for the Queen, and that was the origin of the name. They were considered to have a standing retainer for the Queen, whether in the administration of justice or in any other matter which might come before the Courts. It was clear that before the Union, in 1840, the power of appointing Queen's Counsel belonged to the Lieutenant-Governor, though there was no special provision by which this power was exercised. By the Act of 1840, all the powers which were exercised by the Lieutenant-Governor were vested in the Governor-General; and by the Act of Confederation all the powers of the Governor-General, so far as related to the government of Canada, were to be vested in him, and then in the Lieutenant-Governors of the provinces under him. There had been directly adverse opinions on the matter, for on the one hand it was said the Provincial Governors had no power of appointment, and on the other hand that the Dominion Government had no power. His own view was that the Dominion Government had the right to appoint Queen's Counsel for their own business—for their own courts, if they had any; and that the Government of this Province possessed the right to appoint Queen's Counsel for its own courts, and to transact its own business. Inasmuch as its right in this matter had been questioned, he thought we ought to take the earliest opportunity of affirming our rights, and he therefore moved the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. CAMERON said that the only power which could state what the Confederation Act meant [was the Imperial Parliament. A Queen's Counsel was not a Provincial officer in the sense of that Act. He thought that the only authority under Imperial Commission who had a right to appoint Queen's Counsel was the Governor-General. The Atty.-General acknowledged that the Governor-General had authority to appoint Queen's Counsel for Dominion courts. He