

merly adopted of allowing Bills to go to second reading without sanctioning the principle.

Hon. O. MOWAT -- This system has been pursued for several years, and found extremely convenient to the House, and advantageous to the country. We have passed every year a Municipal Amendment Bill, and I think the general sentiment of the country is that all those Bills have been good Bills. The Municipal Committee is a large one, and its members are thoroughly able to discuss effectively the measures before it, and I think there is no need for a change. There is no reason why we should not make an exception where an exception is needed.

Mr. WATERS pointed out that Councils had power to make the statement called for in the Bill. He spoke against the practice of introducing important amendments in Committee before they had come before the House.

Mr. MERRICK opposed the Bill.

Mr. GIBSON opposed the Bill, and expressed the opinion that the municipal law was amended too much.

Mr. CASCADEN approved of the Bill.

Mr. ERMATINGER dealt shortly with the objections to the Bill.

Mr. BALFOUR thought that some of the members had lost their confidence in Councils and could not trust them from year to year. He objected to the Bill on the ground of expense, as it would practically subject them to two audits.

Mr. DILL said a great deal of harm could be done without the people knowing it from year to year. He supported the Bill.

Mr. BRODER considered there was a great deal of laxity in the keeping of municipal accounts, and supported the Bill.

Mr. PHELPS suggested a change in the system of audit, but thought machinery now existed for doing all that the Bill sought to do.

The Bill was read the second time.

THE ESTIMATES.

A message from the Lieut.-Governor containing the Estimates was received.

THROUGH COMMITTEE.

The following Bills were passed through Committee :--

Mr. Balfour--Respecting the Leamington and St. Clair Railway Company.

Mr. McKim--To consolidate the debenture debt of the town of Mount Forest.

The House adjourned at 4:10.