

ther strike on the Street Railway might not occur for some time, but they did not know how long it would be until the employees of some other concern would be striking. He wished to call this matter to the attention of the Government that they might devise some scheme for the settlement of such disputes.

Mr. ERMATINGER thought the reason why the provisions of the Act had not been availed of was that it was permissive, and contained no compulsory principle. He believed that some more speedy and satisfactory means of settling disputes between masters and workmen could be devised.

Hon. O. MOWAT—There is evidently a growing sympathy amongst all classes with respect to the comfort and well-being of the working classes. I quite agree with the observation that organizations among the workingmen are absolutely necessary to secure the objects of the workingmen; and while injurious effects follow sometimes, the benefits have been so great that the incidental evils cannot be thought of. Strikes are admitted to be an evil, and yet they are the only instrument which can be brought to bear, in many cases, for workingmen to effect their object. Sometimes they are successful, and sometimes they are unsuccessful. When they are successful it is generally regarded as evidence that the employees had some grievance which ought to have been considered. I am afraid, however, that the subject is not one which could be dealt with by this Legislature in any other way than it has been dealt with. These strikes are to be found in all countries, and neither those who represent the workingmen, nor other publicists, have been able to discover any remedy for that. Something might be done by the Legislature to lessen the evils, but no absolute remedy has yet been devised. I, for my part, would be delighted to learn that some way had been devised by which the objects of these strikes could be achieved without them. With regard to the Act now on the statute book, its action is as simple and as speedy as any which can be devised. Neither of the speakers who preceded me suggested anything more speedy or simple, and I fancy the reason why it has not been taken advantage of is because neither employees nor workmen are cognizant of its workings. It provides that any number of masters or representatives of workmen may agree to form a board of arbitration. There is no limit to the number who may agree, though there is a limit to the number forming the Board. There is to be the same number representing the masters as representing the workmen, and so there is no danger of either side being overborne by the other, so that each class will be perfectly safe. If a Board of this kind were formed in times when there is no difficulty, it would be a very valuable body to consider disputes which arise between employers and their workmen. Now that attention has been called to the existence of such an Act, perhaps it will be taken advantage of.

Mr. ROBILLARD expressed the opinion that an employer of labour had a perfect right to insist on the observance of such an agreement as is said to exist between the Toronto Street Car Co. and its employees.

The motion was withdrawn.

NEWSPAPER LIBELS.

Mr. ERMATINGER moved that in the opinion of this House it is expedient that a change in the Civil Law in regard to newspaper libels should be made.

Hon. O. MOWAT said the mover had suggested no change in the present law. Newspapers were sometimes the subjects of suits from irresponsible persons, but even private individuals were in the same position.

The motion was withdrawn.

WATER SUPPLY.

The House in Committee passed Mr. Carnegie's Bill to amend the Act respecting joint stock companies for supplying cities, towns, and villages with gas and water.

TAX ON DOGS.

Mr. CLANCY moved the second reading of the Bill imposing a tax on dogs. It imposes a tax of from \$1 to \$2.

The Bill was read the second time.

THE ASSESSMENT ACT.

Mr. MEREDITH, for Mr. Monk, moved the second reading of a Bill to amend the Assessment Act, so as to remedy a mistake made at the time of the passing of the exemption clauses, by which no distinction was made between incorporated and corporated companies. The Bill was read a second time.

CLERGYMEN'S EXEMPTIONS.

Mr. BALFOUR moved the second reading of a Bill to amend the Assessment Act. Among other amendments the Bill provides that exemptions to clergymen or ministers shall apply to only those clergymen or minis-

ters and their assistants who are in actual charge of a congregation. It also provides that the property occupied by officers and men of Her Majesty's regular army be exempted from taxation to the extent of \$2,000.

THE MUNICIPAL ACT.

Mr. CHISHOLM moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Municipal Act so as to provide that no County Council can throw the maintenance of a road or public work upon a municipality unless the same has been assented to by the local municipality or municipalities affected. Carried.

THE HIGH SCHOOL ACT.

Mr. BASKERVILLE moved the second reading of a Bill to amend the High School Act, 1885, by providing that the High School Boards be allowed to levy taxes only to the extent of a rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mill unless by a two-thirds vote of the municipalities affected.

Hon. G. W. ROSS opposed the amendment, saying that it would hamper the High School Boards considerably, mentioning particularly those of Ottawa and other Collegiate Institutes. It would almost nullify the Act which he thought this House had wisely passed last year.

Mr. MEREDITH supported the measure.

Mr. CREIGHTON suggested that while the Public School Boards were directly responsible to the people for their expenditure, High School Boards were not. He thought the limit should be extended, as $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mill was too small.

Mr. Baskerville withdrew his Bill, and the one relating to the Public Schools.

SALES FOR TAXES.

Mr. GILLIES moved the second reading of the Act amending the Assessment Act. It provides that "the Council of any county may by by-law provide that in townships and incorporated villages within the county arrears of taxes on non-resident lands shall be collected and managed in the same way as is now provided in respect of all arrears of taxes in cities and towns; and the Treasurer and Reeve of every township or incorporated village shall, for the purposes of the sale of any such lands, perform the like duties as are by the Assessment Act imposed on the County Treasurer and Warden respectively in the case of the sale of lands for taxes."

Hon. A. M. ROSS pointed out that there was no part of a minor treasurer's duty so difficult to perform as those which, by this Act, would be placed on him, and many of the men, while honest and well-meaning, were not fitted for the intricate duties which the Act imposed.

Mr. PHELPS supported the Act.

Mr. WOOD thought the objection raised to the Bill was fatal to it.

Mr. CREIGHTON said the Bill would greatly increase the cost of advertising the sales.

The motion for the second reading was lost.

INCOME OF GAS COMPANIES.

Mr. BASKERVILLE moved the second reading of a Bill to amend the Assessment Act providing that the shareholders of a bank or a company which invests its means in gas works, plank or gravel roads, railway or tram roads, shall be assessed on the income derived from such companies.

Hon. C. F. FRASER said the Bill proposes to assess both personal property and income, and to enable municipalities to tax all street railway companies doing business and running cars, coaches, or sleighs on the streets of any city shall be liable to be assessed and taxed at a rate not exceeding \$50 on each car, coach, or sleigh used by them in their said business. He concluded by expressing the hope that the Bill would not be assented to.

The Bill was withdrawn.

JOINT-STOCK ROADS.

Mr. LEES moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the General Road Companies Act. It provides that any municipality or municipalities interested, may purchase the stock of any company at the value at the time of purchase, provided that in valuing the stock of a company, whose road has not been completed for a period of twenty-one years, allowance shall be made for any prospective profits which would be likely to accrue to the owners of such stock between the time of purchase and the expiration of twenty-one years from the first completion of such road.

The Bill was read the second time.

THE ASSESSMENT ACT.

Mr. MORGAN moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Assessment Act. The object is to remedy mistakes which have been made in the sales of lands for taxes, through errors in the returns of defaulters.

The Bill was read the second time.

WATER-WORKS CONSTRUCTION.

Mr. CONMEE moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Municipal Act. It is