

the statute, for protecting the public interest in rivers, streams and creeks, with a schedule of tolls on each, and also to whom paid or to be paid. He referred to the Rivers and Streams Bill which he said, after being disallowed by the Dominion Government several times, was at last allowed to stand. He would like to know what was the use of this bill and to what extent it had been taken advantage of.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE said that the hon. gentleman could readily understand that the mere fact of the Government declaring streams to be natural highways to be used by everybody on proper payment for use of improvements, would prevent difficulties arising and cause people to agree as to the use of these improvements. The Lieutenant-Governor had not been asked to fix tolls upon any of these streams though he knew that a number were being used by others than the owners of improvements upon them.

The resolution was withdrawn.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Mr. CLARKE (Wellington) moved for an order of the House for a return showing the number of convictions returned to the Clerks of the Peace of the several Counties in the Province during the year 1885. The number of such convictions severally made by Police Magistrates, Reeves, acting as Justices of the Peace, *ex-officio*, and duly qualified Justices of the Peace. Also, showing the number in each County of qualified Justices of the Peace receiving copies of the Statutes of Ontario for the same year. Carried.

SEED GRAIN TO SETTLERS.

Mr. ARMSTRONG moved for an order of the House for a return showing the amount due the Government by settlers in the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts for seed grain. Also what amount has been paid back to the Government by the settlers for seed grain. He argued in favor of remitting the amount due, because of the work these pioneers were doing in opening up the Province, and because of the hardships they endured. When the forest fires took place in Michigan some years ago, the Legislature of that State gave seed grain free to those of the sufferers who needed it.

The resolution was carried.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

EVENING SESSION.

After recess,

The following private bills were passed in Committee of the Whole:—

Vesting certain lands in the corporation of the Town of Thorold—Mr. Harcourt.

Respecting the City of Stratford—Mr. Hess.

The following private bills were read the second time:—

Respecting the debt of the City of Kingston—Mr. Metcalfe.

To incorporate the Town of Parry Sound—Mr. Armstrong.

To incorporate the Thames Valley Tramway Co.—Mr. Tooley.

To incorporate the Southern Railway Co.—Mr. McKay.

To change the name of the Thunder Bay Colonisation Co.—Mr. Harcourt.

To define the boundary between the Township of Smith and the Town of Peterborough—Mr. Stratton.

To confirm an agreement entered into between the Municipality of Dysart and the Canadian Land and Emigration Co.—Mr. Guthrie.

To amend the Act incorporating the Queen City Fire Insurance Co.—Mr. Smith.

To amend the Act incorporating the Home of the Friendless of Hamilton—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton).

To consolidate the debt of the City of Guelph and for other purposes—Mr. Guthrie.

To incorporate the International Ferry Railway Co.—Mr. Morin.

TOLL ROADS.

Hon. Mr. FRASER resumed the debate on Mr. Lee's resolution in favor of a Government measure to free the toll roads of the Province. He moved that a Special Committee be appointed to inquire into the question of toll roads and the means whereby the collection of tolls may be surrendered, discontinued, or abolished, to be composed as follows:—Messrs. O'Connor, Meredith, Wood (Hastings), Dack, Balfour, Ingram, Wood (Brant), Garson, Lees, Stratton, Gibson (Huron), Preston, Gilmour, Smith, McMahon, Allan, Drury, Hudson, Clancy and Hilliard.

EXTENSION OF FEMALE FRANCHISE.

Mr. WATERS rose amid applause to move the second reading of the bill to enable married women to vote for members of municipal councils. He said that the tendency of the day was in the direction of the extension of the franchise, and that extension was not confined to the men. The giving of the franchise to women had everywhere been followed with good results. In Britain women had voted in municipal elections for years. The law had been applied to England first, but had afterwards been extended to

Scotland, this itself being a proof that the women of England had used their franchise well. In the last municipal elections in Ontario, notwithstanding that the day was exceedingly inclement, a large woman vote was brought out. The total number of women on the lists was 20,122, and the total number cast was 4,659. These were divided as follows:—Cities 1,902, towns 1,005, villages 646, townships 1,106. This was as large a proportion as he had expected in his humble advocacy of the measure, and was a large proportion considering the inclemency of the weather on the day of the election. The effect of having the women on the lists was to make it necessary to have the best men brought out and to keep moral questions well to the front in the election. This was the experience everywhere where women had been given the vote. He dwelt especially upon the experience of Wyoming, respecting which he read a number of extracts from letters of prominent men and from newspapers in a position to speak with authority. The object of this bill was to give the same electoral place to married women as was now given to widows and unmarried women. The plea would be raised, of course, that a married woman was represented by her husband. But the husband did not vote as the representative of the woman. It was said that this would raise discord in the family. But they must assume that in every well regulated home there were subjects on which the husband and wife agreed to differ, and why not upon this question of voting, should they differ at all. At present, if a man owned a house he voted as owner of it, and the tenant of the same property voted as tenant. But if the property were sold to a married woman, the tenant would still continue to vote, but the owner could not vote. He dwelt upon the fact of the many petitions on the subject which had been presented, and said that many others would be sent in.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said his hon. friend was an old campaigner in regard to this question. The members of the House knew what his (Mr. Fraser's) opinions on this subject were. They were his own opinions; he was not representing the opinions of any body else. This