

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Sixth Parliament --- First Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

MONDAY, March 29.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. AWREY introduced a bill to amend the Municipal Act, which was read the first time.

PRIVATE BILLS.

The following bills were read the third time:

—Respecting the City of Stratford, Mr. Hess; respecting the debt of the City of Kingston, Mr. Metcalfe; to incorporate the Southern Central Railway Company, Mr. McKay; to change the name of the Thunder Bay Colonisation Railway Company, Mr. Harcourt; to amend the Act respecting the incorporation of the Village of Huntsville, Mr. Marter; to amend the Act incorporating the Brockville Gas Light Company, Mr. Fraser; respecting the Gore District Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Mr. Gibson (Hamilton).

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The Attorney-General's bill respecting the administration of justice in Algoma and Thunder Bay was passed through committee.

CUSTODY OF TITLE DEEDS.

The Attorney-General's bill respecting the custody of documents relating to land titles was passed through committee.

PROTECTION OF INFANT CHILDREN.

Hon O. MOWAT, on moving the second reading of the bill for the protection of infant children, said that the bill was aimed at the practice commonly known as baby-farming. It was an evil which existed more or less in every part of the Province, but more especially in the larger cities. He had been interviewed by a deputation of benevolent persons with regard to the matter, and had made enquiries with regard to the extent of the evil. He had also ascertained what legislation there had been in the matter elsewhere, and had found that it had been dealt with in several of the United States and in England—all substantially in the same way, by giving the local municipalities power to deal with the matter under certain regulations. The bill which he had introduced was very largely in accord with the provisions of the English Act. The bill was shortly this:—No one shall be at liberty to receive infants for this purpose, except under regulations of the Municipal Council of the locality, nor without first getting registered on application to the municipal council. It will be the duty of the council to see that the person applying is a proper person and the house a proper house. It was extremely sad to learn what he had learned in connection with this subject. There was no room for doubt that in Toronto there were several places where this business was carried on, and the general result of the treatment of the infants was that they died in four or five weeks partly from medicines given to quiet them, and partly from insufficient food. They were mostly illegitimate children and were taken there, he could not doubt, with the expectation and hope that

THEY MIGHT NOT LIVE.

Those who took them there were not willing to run the risk of destroying them in any other way. The municipal council, it was provided