

Several of the County Councils and minor municipalities have petitioned for such an amendment to the law as Mr. O'Connor seeks to have made.

HON. A. S. HARDY gives notice of a bill entitled an Act affecting industrial farms and houses of refuge.

NAIRN AND LEYS:—Mr. Nairn, of Elgin, and Mr. Leys, of Toronto, have formed a partnership for the promotion of legislation respecting hire receipts and conditional sales of chattels.

Mr. Nairn is the senior member of the firm.

Mr. French was a pioneer in this work, but he seems to have abandoned the field to his later rivals.

It is no doubt true that the holders under hire receipts of such articles as sewing machines, organs and pianos are often able to secure credit beyond their deserts, and that on this account tradesmen are often victimised.

It should be possible to devise some cheap and easy means of registration on the lines suggested by Mr. Nairn and Mr. Leys that would mitigate all the real hardships of the situation.

ONE UP THE SLEEVE:—Now it is argued that there is more than a full hand of Clarkes. It is pointed out that Mr. Sydere makes the sixth, and that he is about the hardest-worked Clarke of them all. It will be useless to produce any more of the denomination. This is the final deliverance on the subject. They must settle between them who is to have the John Pot.

LABOR'S WANTS:—The first batch of labor petitions of the session were presented by Mr. Gibson, of Hamilton. There are probably a lot more to follow. The workmen of Hamilton petition:—

For a law declaring null and void any contract between employer and employee which deprived either of civil or legal rights.

For the proper inspection of stationary engines and boilers.

Against the numbering of ballot papers and duplicates at elections.

Against the property qualification for holding municipal office.

Against exemption from taxation.

For manhood suffrage.

For a Workshop Regulation Act.

THE TREASURER intimates that the public accounts will be distributed on Monday.

A DIPHTHERIA EPIDEMIC:—Mr. J. R. Stratton, of West Peterboro', Mr. J. A. Barron, M. P. for North Victoria, and Mr. W. Gainer, Warden of Haliburton, interviewed the Minister of Agriculture to urge him to have steps taken to stay the spread of diphtheria about Kinmount.

There have been a great many deaths in this locality. In one school section eighteen persons were carried off by the disease. In the family of Mr. John Mortimer, of Anson Township, there have been six deaths. The family of Mr. William Fairfield, of Linden, suffered the loss of several of its members.

It is supposed the disease was planted in the neighborhood in August last by a visitor from Montreal.

The Minister promptly communicated with Dr. Bryce, of the Board of Health, who stated that he had communicated with the Councils of the affected municipalities, and that two had appointed health officers. He also agreed to leave to-day for a personal inspection of the infected district.

DISTRESSED:—Mr. Creighton looks troubled. It is said he is engaged in incubating a line of argument to prove that the surplus which he declared did not exist a year ago, has diminished since the Treasurer made his last statement. This time he is resolved to make a hole in the surplus that will not heal until he is called in to apply the plasters.

MISSING SINKING FUNDS:—The Private Bills Committee are considering a proposal to provide that no municipalities except cities shall issue debentures on a sinking fund basis.

It is said these sinking funds have a habit of disappearing when they are wanted.

The Economical Councils sometimes make their reputations by appropriating the sinking funds provided by their Extravagant predecessors.

There are more than the usual number of applications for consolidations of debts.

Brussels has a bonus debt of \$32,000 and Hamilton one of the same kind of \$37,000, but sinking funds with which they were to be paid seem to have disappeared. The bonus is often the occasion of the sinking fund and of the trouble which follows when it is found that it has been eaten up.

The proposal before the Private Bills Committee is that no debentures shall be issued except on the equal instalment plan, and this will probably be found to be the only satisfactory solution of the perennial sinking fund trouble.

AFTER TROUBLE:—Mr. Phelps gives notice of a bill to amend the Act for the protection of game and other fur-bearing animals. This will make the fur fly. If there is ever a time that the Assembly can get into real bad temper and call real hard names it is when it settles down to conflict on the Game Law.

FOUND A POLICY:—At last Mr. Meredith thinks he has got it.

He gives notice of the following resolutions:—

That a select committee be appointed to inquire into the extent and nature of the timber and mineral resources of the Province, and the best means within the control of its Legislature for the conservation of the former and the development of the latter, with power to send for persons, papers and records, said committee to be composed of the following members:—Messrs. Armstrong, Bronson, Clancy, Clarke, of Wellington; H. E. Clarke, of Toronto; Connee, Fraser, Freeman, French, Marter, Meredith, Murray and Wood, of Hastings.

The motion is likely to bring on one of the most important debates of the session.

TOOLEY TOO:—Father Tooley joins in the hunt for the portfolio of Agriculture. He wants a return of the evidence taken by Mr. Emilius Irving, Q. C., with reference to the Ontario Seed Grain Company and all information with regard to its formation and operation. Probably the report would come without a motion, but it is understood Mr. Tooley is loaded for portfolio and that this offered the most convenient fighting basis that he could get his eye on.

PERSONAL:—Mr. J. A. Barron, M. P. for North Victoria, had a seat on the floor of the House during the afternoon.

Mr. Geo. Swan, of Kincardine, spent a short time in the Chamber with Mr. Dack, of Centre Bruce.

Mr. Gilbert Osler and Mr. Arch. Morrison, ex-Reeves of Raleigh, were about the House for an hour or so with Mr. Ferguson, of East Kent.

Mr. W. C. Edwards, ex-M. P. for Russell, and Sheriff Hagar, of Prescott, a former member of the Assembly, formed part of the Prescott railway deputation. Mr. Hagar was warmly greeted by many old acquaintances.

Mr. B. B. Miller, of Warton, who was dismissed from the office of Division Court clerk a short time ago, and in connection with whose case Mr. Wood, of Brant, the other day made a motion for papers, was about the Chamber during the day. The subject of his dismissal may come before the Assembly. If it should some interesting revelations are promised.

A CANDIDATE:—It is understood Mr. James Scott, lumberman, of Waubushene, will be the Tory candidate for the House of Commons for East Simcoe.

AFTER A BONUS:—Mr. G. B. A. Mongrais, President of the Prescott & Vaudreuil Railway Company; Mr. Hugh McMillan, M. P. for Vaudreuil; Mr. W. C. Edwards, ex-M. P. for Russell; Sheriff Hagar, ex-M. P. for Prescott; Mr. W. McLeod, Reeve of West Hawkesbury, and Mr. J. R. McLaren and Mr. J. B. Kelly, of Vankleek Hill, urged upon members of the Government the claims of the Prescott & Vaudreuil railway to a subsidy from the Provincial Treasury. The arguments used were much the same as were presented on behalf of the same project by members of the joint railway deputation which interviewed the Government on the previous day. The deputation was introduced by Mr. Evanturel. The Attorney-General promised the representations made his serious consideration, but gave no indication of the probable action of the Government.

WENTWORTH TOLLS.

The County Wants Facilities for Buying up the Roads.

The County of Wentworth was well represented by the deputation which yesterday waited upon the Attorney-General and Provincial Treasurer to seek means through Governmental action to rid the county of the toll grievance. Those forming the deputation were as follows:—John Ira Flatt, of East Flamboro', warden of the county; A. R. Wardell, Reeve of Dundas and ex-Warden; George Baker, Reeve of Waterdown; W. G. Fletcher, Reeve of Binbrooke; John W. Gage, Reeve of Barton; Capt. Thos. Walker, Reeve of Ancaster; John Dickinson, Reeve of Glanford; Robert Ferguson, Reeve of Beverly, and Geo. Lewis, Reeve of Saltfleet. They were introduced by N. Awrey, M. P. North Wentworth; Dr. McMahon, M. P., South Wentworth, and J. M. Gibson, M. P., Hamilton.

The principal speaker was Mr. Wardell. He pointed out difficulties in the way of the county buying the roads, though the imposts of 21 toll gates in the county made it essentially necessary that something should be done. One difficulty was that roads owned by private individuals or companies extended beyond the bounds of the county, and the owners refused to sell those parts of the roads in the county alone. Another difficulty was that some of the roads were highways from adjoining counties into Hamilton, and it did not seem fair that the County of Wentworth should buy the roads alone and give these other people free access to them. He thought there should be some means of charging some of the cost upon the people of adjoining counties according to the benefits they received. There was a dispute as to the ownership of the Dundas and Waterloo road, both the Dominion and Ontario Governments claiming it. Should it be determined that the Province owned it the people of Wentworth desired from the Government whatever facility could be given in securing control of it and abolishing the tolls. They desired also further powers than were already given in the statute in case of disagreement as to terms between the owners of the road and the county.

A conversational discussion followed Mr. Wardell's statement, in the course of which a table was exhibited showing the length of the road proposed to be purchased, in all 104 miles, the cost of which to purchase was estimated by one of the members of the deputation at \$200,000.

The Attorney-General said that while it would be quite right for him to seek legislation to place some of the cost of the roads on the people of adjoining counties if they consented, he could hardly promise to do it against their will. He would be glad to do whatever could be done so far as the Dundas and Waterloo road was concerned, which he strongly believed belonged to the Province. (Laughter.)

Mr. P. R. Waddell, of Hamilton, one of the largest road proprietors in the county, said that while he favored free roads he desired to ask that nothing should be done to interfere with vested rights without giving opportunity to those interested to present their case. This opportunity, the Attorney-General assured him, would be given.