

## ASSEMBLY NOTES.

THE OPPOSITION got rather the better of the Government on the first division of the session. The vote was taken on an amendment by Mr. Fraser to a motion by the member for West Kent. Mr. Clancy's motion censured the Government for delay in bringing down returns ordered by the House. Mr. Fraser's amendment was to the effect that parliamentary practice required that returns which it was found impossible to have prepared during the session in which they are ordered must be re-ordered by the House if wanted in a subsequent session.

There was not much in the motion, and there was just about as much in the amendment.

It is true the Opposition sometimes insist upon returns in the preparation of which an enormous amount of work is involved. It is likewise true that Mr. Fraser's amendment stated the correct parliamentary practice. But the House had grown into the custom of receiving returns ordered in previous sessions. The practice suited the convenience of both parties. If anything it was more favorable to the Opposition than to the Government, and as it would be absurd to charge any one of the Ministers with a desire to suppress facts within their possession that are the legitimate property of the public, the amendment was a fair rebuke to an unjust and querulously censorious motion.

In fact, it is not at all likely the Opposition would have insisted on a vote had it not been that there were many vacancies on the Government benches, and that there was a chance to make the first division of the session tell against the Liberals.

They generalled well. The vote was but 41 to 24 in favor of the Government. A Government majority of 17 in a House with a Government majority of 26.

The Liberal absentees without pairs were Garson, Guthrie, McKay, McMahon, Master, Pardee, Snider, Sprague, Stratton, Evanturel and Wood, of Brant.

The Conservatives absent without pairs were Biggar, Hudson and Wilmot—2.

The pairs were Col. Gibson and Kerns, Col. Moren and Lees, Leys and E. F. Clarke, Drury and Marter, Harcourt and Metcalfe.

Not a Government supporter voted with the Opposition. The Meredith party were in a minority of only seventeen simply because it was Friday, when many members go home, and because the Liberals had no thought of a division. Besides, the Government majority is so large that many of the Liberals are careless about pairing and apt to meet the protestations of the whip with the argument that the Government is safe and it doesn't make very much difference if the full majority doesn't always appear on the division lists. It is practical slavery for a whip to have charge of a big majority. Mr. Freeman can make out a strong case against the people of Ontario.

**CEMETERIES:**—Mr. Garson, of Lincoln, has a bill to enable municipalities to buy out cemetery companies and to substitute municipal control for that of companies.

**OTTAWA'S LIMITS:**—A deputation from Ottawa, comprised of Mayor McLeod Stewart, Ald. Henderson, McVeity and Errat, City Solicitor McTavish and Assessment Commissioner Pratt, were before the Private Bills Committee in support of the bill enlarging the city's limits. It is proposed to add to the corporation parts of the Townships of Gloucester and Nepean, including the villages of Rochesterville, Mount Sherwood and Stewarton. Mr. Bronson also proposed to add a portion of Bayswater, but objection was taken by Mr. Christie, counsel for persons interested, that the necessary notice had not been given, and, in consequence, the proposition was not pressed. Mr. Monk also objected that on some of the lands to be annexed the taxation would be excessive, and it was provided that all lands actually used as farms should be assessed as such. With this amendment the bill was passed. The proposed extension of the city's limits will add 4,000 to the population, and will increase considerably the voting strength of the English element.

**HOUSES OF INDUSTRY:**—Hon. A. S. Hardy's bill affecting industrial farms and houses of refuge proposes to give to townships, villages

and towns not separated from counties the powers which cities, counties and separated towns now have for the establishment of houses of industry.

**THE PROVINCIAL:**—There is a good deal of speculation over the cutting down of the estimate for agricultural associations from \$10,000 to \$4,500. It is thought to be the intention of the Government to take away from the Board of Agriculture the sum that usually went towards the Provincial Fair, in which case that institution would probably go into retirement. The Agricultural and Arts Association for some years past have promised that each Exhibition would be more popular than its predecessor, and that each would draw money to the treasury. But the exchequer has not been replenished and each succeeding exhibition has simply proved more conclusively that the fair's usefulness has gone and that it must make way for its popular and powerful self-supporting rivals. The Government should refuse to be bulldozed into replacing the grant in the estimate.

**FIVE YEAR RISKS:**—Mr. Bishop, of Huron, has added to his bill to create live stock mutual insurance companies, a clause to enable mutual fire insurance companies, and mutual only, to take five-year risks.

**A CUP:**—Mr. Dryden, of South Ontario, has received a letter from Mr. Alfred Mansell, of Lythall, Mansell & Walters, of Shrewsbury, England, Secretaries of the Shropshire Sheep-breeders' Association and Stock-book Society, in which he says he is instructed by the Stock Association to offer through Mr. Dryden for competition at the Toronto Industrial Fair a £10 cup for a pure bred Shropshire ram and seven of his offspring, viz., two ram lambs and five ewe lambs, also pure bred. The offer is the outcome of a timely suggestion by Mr. Dryden when he was in the Old Country a few months ago.

**GOING TO THE FARM:**—On the invitation of the Minister of Agriculture the members of the House will visit the Agricultural College and Experimental Farm at Guelph on Wednesday next.

**FOR REAL ESTATE AGENTS:**—Mr. Clancy has a bill to amend the Registry Act, which aims at a praiseworthy end. He proposes that instruments giving authority to sell lands, and naming the commission to be paid, shall not be binding upon the land after one year from the date of the contract as against a subsequent purchaser or creditor of the person giving the authority. The passing of the bill will, in some degree, mitigate a practice that has grown into a serious evil and that calls for effective legislative suppression.

**A VISITOR:**—Mr. W. R. Climie, of The Bowmanville Sun, Secretary of the Canadian Press Association, and one of the best-known journalists of the Province, had a seat in the Press Gallery during the afternoon.

**MANUFACTURERS AND FARMERS:**—Mr. Drury, president of the Assembly's farmers' or-