

ASSEMBLY NOTES.

THE STATE OF BUSINESS:—The general opinion is that the session will not close much before April 1st. Good progress has been made with the estimates, but other Government business is not so well advanced. The debate on the Inter-Provincial resolutions will not begin on Thursday next as announced, but will be made the first order for Tuesday, the 28th instant, and for every day thereafter until it is closed. The Franchise Bill will probably not become law this session, but will no doubt be advanced so far that members and the outside public will have ample opportunity of discussing it.

THE TRIP TO THE FARM:—The excursion train for the Model Farm will leave Toronto at nine Wednesday morning, and the same train will leave Guelph at 4 p.m.

WAR IN WALSHINGHAM:—Mr. Benjamin Kilmaster and Mr. H. A. Maybee interviewed the Attorney-General yesterday with reference to the proposed division of the Township of Walshingham. The matter will come before the Private Bills Committee shortly. The people who are favorable to a division are also favorable to the granting of a bonus to the South Norfolk railway, which is to connect Simcoe with the Grand Trunk, while the township as a whole has just voted against the granting of such a bonus.

FRAUDS ON THE FARMER:—A recent discussion in the House opened up the general question of frauds practised on farmers. It is observed that the fraud is usually accomplished by a promissory note signed by the farmer, and that when the note is sued upon it is never in the hands of the fraudulent agent but of another party, known to the law as "a bona fide holder for a value without notice." Cases have occurred where this party has been successful, although his lack of notice of the fraud must have been due to a very rigorous abstention from inquiry. The suggestion is therefore made that what is wanted is a new statutory definition of what constitutes bona fides and notice.

MR. HARDY yesterday brought down a return showing the number of insane persons confined in the gaols of the Province. The number so confined in February, 1887, the latest period mentioned in the return, was 143. A note accompanying the return says that many of these persons—presumably the harmless and hopeless class—are not subjects for an asylum, but for a home.

MR. FRENCH FIGHTING FIRE:—Bush fires—Mr. French's bill for the prevention of bush fires got its second reading yesterday, but the discussion showed that it is not likely to pass the Municipal Committee unscathed. It is conceded that the object of the bill is a good one, but there will be difficulty in working out the details, and the farmers would be strongly opposed to any measure which would unduly hamper them in clearing up their lands.

MR. BALFOUR intends to introduce a bill providing that farmers' sons are not to be counted in the number of voters necessary to enable a township to have a Deputy-Reeve, and also that for the same purpose no name shall be counted more than once. Some legislation on the subject is needed, because the practice in different townships has varied.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION intends, by a bill which he introduced yesterday, to provide that Boards of Trustees of High schools and Collegiate Institutes shall have the same power to expropriate land for sites as is now possessed by Public School Boards. The lack of such a power has in some cases hampered the trustees in the selection of a site.

PERSONAL:—A letter recently received here indicates that there is no hope of Major Biggar taking his seat in the House this session.

Mr. William Bowes, of Greenock, who has made extensive contributions to the literature of political economy, watched the proceedings of the House from the press gallery yesterday.