

subject by enacting that chattel mortgages shall be registered in the registry offices, as is the case with real estate transfers. The member for Dundas is also seriously considering the introduction of a bill making bribery at elections punishable with imprisonment instead of a fine, as is now the case. He thinks that such a change would effectually stamp out all forms of electoral corruption, the experience of the past being that a fine of \$200 has not had the necessary effect in stamping out corruption at elections.

Mr. John Waters, of North Middlesex, and Mr. Samuel Armstrong, of Parry Sound, are looked upon in the House as models of modesty, but at the same time they are equally known for their honest convictions and legislative perseverance. The two hon. gentlemen were more than usually bashful in the committee room after the House rose yesterday, the occasion being that they were waited on by Mrs. McDonell, president of the W. C. T. U., and Dr. Stowe in the interests of woman suffrage. They had a long consultation with Mr. Waters, the purport of which was that his modified bill on the question will receive their support, and that they will do everything possible to strengthen his hands in carrying it through the House. The bill, as introduced by the member for North Middlesex, provides for giving the Parliamentary franchise to women on the same conditions as they now vote at municipal elections. Mr. Graham (Lambton) is the seconder of the measure, and acting in that capacity he mildly but firmly remonstrated with Mr. Waters for not being asked to commune with the ladies in the committee room.

Mr. Dack, of Centre Bruce, will shortly introduce a bill entitled "An Act to amend the Snow Fence Act." As at present on the statute book, the Act is held by those most interested to be inoperative, or rather cannot be taken advantage of. It provides that when all owners and occupants of lands in townships between a side line and side line, or between two concessions, unanimously petition the Council, the latter have the power to pass a by-law allowing the farmers so petitioning to erect a wire snow

fence taking in six feet of the road allowance, when the road is not less than sixty-six feet in width. The law is inoperative because so many owners of land are never ready to build a fence at the same time. The amendment proposed is that one or more farmers may petition and be granted the privilege. Any zigzag appearance such fences may give the roads would only be for a short time. As the present new fences need renewing, undoubtedly the wire snow fences will become general. The bill has been introduced in the interest of farmers, who know the difficulty of breaking the roads in winter time, and at the request of a number of them.

Mr. H. P. O'Connor was warmly welcomed by his fellow-legislators to the House yesterday, but to none was his appearance more agreeable than to the Government whip, Mr. Freeman. Mr. O'Connor explains that he was detained by the County Council of Bruce, which was in session last week, his object being to gather stray grievances from men who came fresh from their constituencies. Bruce, he learned, is quite happy, but anxious to see Mr. O'Connor's bill, providing for the sale of lands for taxes taking place in the municipality where they are situated, pass the House this session. According to the present law such lands are sold in the county towns under the direction of the county treasurer, past experience showing that a serious injustice had been done to owners living in distant parts of the county. In Huron Township a man is to-day the owner of 50 acres of land for which he paid \$70 at a tax sale in Walkerton, the value of the property then being estimated at \$1,500. The land was advertised for sale in Walkerton, and, not coming under the attention of the original owner, it was in this way lost to him under circumstances which were, to say the least of it, unjust and cruel. There are many such instances throughout the country, the repetition of which, Mr. O'Connor believes, will be prevented by advertising and selling lands held for taxes in the municipalities instead of at the county town.

Mr. James Clancy, of West Kent, will shortly introduce a bill amending the Drainage Act, in several points declared to be inconsistent by the courts. It appears that whenever a drain is constructed between two municipalities, the law provides for arbitrators to decide the amount which each shall contribute towards the expense, the levying of which on the farms improved by the work is left to the Court of Revision. In a case tried by Sir Matthew Crooks Cameron, the learned judge held that the arbitrators' powers extended to declaring the amount to be contributed by each farmer benefited, thus clearly usurping the functions of the Court of Revision. Mr. Clancy states that the Legislature never intended any such construction to be put on the law, and he therefore proposes to amend the statute by making it clear that the functions of the arbitrators shall be confined to an investigation as to the amount which ought to be defrayed by each of the municipalities in their corporate capacity. In another case it was declared that where drains were constructed under the Drainage Act have in course of time been repaired, the expense of such should be borne by the municipality and not by the individual. The member for West Kent says that this decision is not according to the spirit of the Act, and he will seek to make it clear by an amendment that the Drainage Act provisions will apply to repairs equally with original construction.