

THE LEGISLATURE.

IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS TO THE FACTORIES ACT.

Orders in Council Ratified—Petitions and Notices of Motion—Registration of Discharged Mortgages — Deputation from the Young Liberals' Club Wait on the Government.

FEBRUARY 6, 1889.

The House sat for an hour to-day and disposed of a fair amount of business. The petitions were not so numerous, the principal ones being:—

By Mr. Balfour—From John Mulholland and others, of Blenheim, that an Act may pass to incorporate the Amherstburg, Lake Shore & Blenheim Railway Company; also, from Essex County Council, to amend the Hawkers Act; also, from the same, to amend the Assessment Act as to the sale of non-resident lands.

By Mr. Wood (Brant)—From James Sharp and others, of South Dumfries, praying that the bill before the House relating to the sale and vesting of certain lands in the Town of Galt may not pass.

By Mr. Metcalfe—From C. O. Corbett, of Kingston, and 79 others, praying that the game laws of Ontario be so amended as to allow spring shooting of migratory ducks.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time:—

An Act to amend the Registry Act—Mr. A. F. Wood.

An Act to amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Field.

An Act to amend the Municipal Act respecting county bridges—Mr. Waters.

An Act to amend the Ontario Election Act—Mr. Balfour.

An Act to amend the Act respecting Insurance Companies—Mr. Bishop.

Hon. A. M. Ross then moved seriatim a number of resolutions of ratification of certain Orders in Council passed, subject to the approval of the House of Assembly, and placing under schedule B of the Charity Aid Act, to receive aid according to conditions named, the following institutions:—Home for the Aged, Ottawa; Refuge Branch of the Orphans' Home, Ottawa; Convalescent Home, Toronto; Church Home for the Aged, Toronto, and St. John's Hospital, Toronto. The resolutions severally stated that the recommendation of the Council was based on reports from Mr. Inspector Christie and upon the recommendation of the Provincial Secretary.

Mr. Creighton, who was leading the Opposition in the absence of his chieftain, asked if the reports of Mr. Christie ought not to have been distributed before these resolutions were brought before the House.

Mr. Ross replied that the House was pursuing the usual practice in regard to the matter, and that the reports were merely formal. They were, however, included in a volume of reports that had been issued. Upon this Mr. Creighton withdrew his objection and the resolutions were carried one and all.

The bill to amend the Ontario Factories Act was, on motion of Mr. Fraser, read a second time, and the House adjourned.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Hudson—On Friday next—Bill to amend the municipal law.

Mr. Stratton—On Friday next—Bill to amend the Municipal Act; also, on Friday next, bill to amend the Public School Act.

Mr. Connec—On Friday next—Bill respecting the reference of matters to arbitration.

Mr. Leys—On Friday next—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

The Attorney-General—Bill to amend the Pharmacy Act.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

ITEMS GATHERED IN AND AROUND THE HOUSE AND FROM DEPARTMENTS.

Rev. Dr. Potts was amongst the members during the afternoon in the interests of the endowment fund of Victoria College.

Hon. A. S. Hardy, Commissioner of Crown Lands, entertained a large number of his Parliamentary friends, as well as leading citizens of Toronto, at the Reform Club in the evening. The affair was a most enjoyable one, Mr. Hardy proving, as usual, an unrivalled host.

Mr. J. K. McMichael and F. L. Culver, of the Township of Townsend, Norfolk County, constituents of Mr. J. B. Freeman

had seats on the floor of the House during the sitting. Mr. McMichael holds the silver medal from the Agricultural and Arts Association for the best cultivated farm in the Province.

The members of the House interested in the construction of railroads through their constituencies will wait on the Government after the adjournment on Friday, to urge upon them the claims of their respective roads for Provincial aid. It is expected that Mr. S. B. Foster, of the G. T. R., Montreal, will be one of the deputation.

Mr. Ostrom proposes to amend the municipal law by enacting that in the event of the Council of a municipality exceeding its estimates, they shall be personally liable for the amount. The bill calls upon the Council to provide the ratepayers at the end of the year with a specific financial statement, showing that all accounts have been met, and that no debts have been contracted to be handed over to the new Council.

Dr. McMahon has a carefully prepared bill before the Assembly dealing with the vexed question of tollgate roads. It provides an easy machinery by which municipalities can purchase these roads and eventually make them free to the public. The doctor has given a great deal of thought to the subject, and thinks that if his bill becomes law, the people will have themselves only to blame if they permit these obstacles to travelling public to continue.

The Provincial Secretary presented copies of Orders in Council authorising the establishment of a second High school in the City of Toronto and of the proposed High schools in Parkdale and in Aurora; the selling of certain lands in connection with the Stratford Collegiate Institute; the raising of the Lindsay High school to the status of a Collegiate Institute, and the sale of certain lands in connection with the Brockville High School Board. The Provincial Secretary also presented the annual returns of the Toronto General Trusts Company for the year 1888.

During the ten days of the session already elapsed considerably over 150 petitions have been prevented. The bulk of them are included in the following list:—

For exemptions from taxation.....	55
For publication of assessment rolls.....	7
For non-resident land sales in townships....	8
For the \$600 exemption.....	6
For amendment to the Hawkers Act.....	10
For appointment of certain county officials by County Councils.....	10
For various amendments to Municipal Act.....	11
Relating to education.....	10
Relating to boiler inspection, etc.....	8
For amendment to Factory Act.....	8
For amendment to General Railway Act....	2
For amendment to Insurance Act.....	4
For amendment to Game Law.....	1

Mr. Hudson has a short bill in which sec. 37 of the Voters' List Act is proposed to be incorporated with the Act regulating municipal elections. The section is:—"No person shall make, execute, accept or become a party to any lease, deed or other instrument, or become a party to any verbal arrangement, whereby a colorable interest in any land, house or tenement is conferred, in order to qualify a person to be a voter; and any person violating the provisions of this section, besides being liable to any other penalty prescribed in that behalf, shall incur a penalty of \$100; and a person who induces or attempts to induce another to commit an offence under this section shall incur a like penalty."

Mr. Balfour's amendment to the Ontario Elections Act affects only Pelee Island. If an election is held during the inclement season of the year the returning officer finds a great difficulty in sending instructions to the deputy returning officers on the Island. So far a messenger has been employed, and on one occasion the gale was so strong on the lake that a steamer had to be chartered, thus incurring great expense to the Province as well as being a source of danger to life and limb. The member for South Essex amends the Act by giving the Lieutenant-Governor in Council the power to authorise the returning officer to instruct the deputy returning officers of Pelee Island by telephone instead of by messenger. The clause is the same as that which holds in the Dominion Elections Act with respect to the Magdalene Islands, the telegraph being used in their case.

Mr. Wood (Hastings) proposes an important amendment to the Registry Act, the gist of which is that loan companies shall be compelled to register the discharge of all prior mortgages wiped off by the money borrowed by mortgagors from the said company. Mr. Wood has been urged by registrars and those acquainted with the grievance proposed to be remedied, to introduce his bill, and he thinks that when properly explained, it will commend itself to the House as of urgent necessity. It appears that many loan companies neglect to regis-

ter the discharge of prior mortgages, the consequence being that whenever a search is made by a third party of the incumbrance on property, a serious injustice is done to the owner, especially so when it is considered that the registration fee is invariably deducted from the loan advanced. The discharges are pigeon-holed in the offices, and it cannot be well understood why they should not be registered at once. In connection with this subject, the question is asked why the original will should not be left at the registry office instead of a copy. According to the present law, it is deposited in the probate office, and if it should become lost, as might happen, and litigation arise, there would be difficulty experienced in proving the signatures, the phraseology and purport of the testamentary document. Mr. Wood is giving some consideration to this subject also, and will probably frame a bill amending the Wills Statute on the above lines.

A deputation from the Young Liberals' Club waited on the Government after the adjournment, in the Council Chamber, and ably advocated the exemption from taxation of dwelling houses up to \$600. The members of the Government were all present, taking an active part in discussing the various economic questions brought to their attention. In the absence of the president of the club, Mr. J. S. Willison, who was called away from the city owing to the death of a relative, the deputation were introduced and their mission stated by Mr. J. M. Clark, an ex-president of the club. The merits of the question were discussed by Messrs. Clark, S. T. Wood, H. M. Cleland, T. Wallace, W. A. Douglass and R. Donald. It did not appear that the Government are making much headway towards endorsing "land values" and "the unearned increment," notwithstanding the brilliant lectures which they listened to from various deputations during the last two months. But at the same time Mr. Mowat assured the deputation that the subjects brought to their attention were interesting, although they could not see how they could be made practical. Mr. J. M. Clark assured the Government that the Young Liberals' Club was not committed to the theories discussed throughout the interview, having only voted in favor of a six hundred dollar exemption on dwelling houses, and it was to urge this the deputation was appointed, and for nothing else. This explanation was necessary because some of the speakers traversed beyond the limits of the object of the deputation, the question at issue receiving scant attention. On this question Mr. Mowat gave the same reply as to other similar deputations.

Hon. Mr. Fraser's explanation of the series of amendments made to the Ontario Factories Act showed the great care exercised by the Government in providing the country with effective and prudent legislation. No statute is perfect, but it is safe to say that the changes proposed to be made in the Factories Act will receive the hearty support of the House and the endorsement of the wage-earners of the country. The provisions of the Act are made now to apply to five or more persons instead of twenty, as under the original Act, it being considered that small factories have as much right to legislative protection as larger ones. Another important amendment to the Act is as follows:—"Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, or the principal Act as amended by this Act, women may, during the months of July, August, September and October in any year, be employed to a later hour than nine o'clock in the afternoon of any day in any factory wherein the only work or operations carried on relate to and are exclusively such as may be necessary for the canning or desiccating of fruits or vegetables, and the preparation thereof for being so canned or desiccated; but no woman shall be so employed during the said months to a later hour than nine o'clock in the afternoon of any day for more than twenty days in the whole, and in reckoning such period of twenty days, every day on which any woman has been so employed to a later hour than nine o'clock in the afternoon is to be taken into account." Provision is made for allowing women employed as above forty-five minutes for the evening meal. In addition to these amendments, it is also provided that notice must be immediately sent to the inspector whenever any accident takes place in a factory. With respect to the hearing of complaints, the Act is amended so that

"On the trial of any complaint, proceeding, matter or question under this Act, the person opposing or defending, or who is charged with any offence against or under any of the provisions of this Act, shall be competent and compellable to give evidence in or with respect to such complaint, proceeding, matter or question."