

was read a second time without comment.

MILK FRAUDS.

Mr. Meredith asked whether the attention of the Government had been called to the recent decision of the High Court of Justice, holding that certain provisions of the Act of last session intituled "An Act to provide against frauds in the supplying of milk to cheese or butter manufactories" are beyond the powers of the Legislature to enact—whether it is intended to acquiesce in that decision or to appeal therefrom.

The Attorney-General said, in very decided tones, that the attention of the Government had been called to the decision in question, and that it was not intended to acquiesce therein. There was some difficulty, however, in the way of appealing against the decision as the bill stood at present, and the Government intended asking the House to make such changes in it as would enable such appeals to be made.

Mr. Meredith suggested that copies of the judgment in question should be printed and distributed among members of the House, and the Attorney-General replied that the suggestion was very reasonable, and it should be done.

The House rose about five o'clock.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

ITEMS GATHERED AROUND THE HOUSE AND FROM THE DEPARTMENTS.

Mr. J. W. Beatty, of Parry Sound, is in the lobbies in the interest of railroad enterprise for that district.

The Committee on Standing Orders held a short meeting in the morning and recommended several private bills to the House.

Mr. Ferguson proposes to submit a bill amending the Drainage Act, so that the County Judge will be substituted for the three arbitrators appointed under the present Act. He says that the arbitrators' fees often exceed the amount of damages awarded.

Mr. Lyon's bills regarding Algoma and Parry Sound provide that Reeves shall have jurisdiction only in the municipalities by which they are elected and that one or more townships can be grouped into one municipality. The latter bill aims at obviating the difficulties encountered by townships with a small population and having an inferior quality of soil.

Hon. Mr. Fraser's speech on the amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Bill evinced to great advantage his honest sympathy with the working classes, and his studious and painstaking zeal to give them that legislative protection which will insure them against unjust and undue oppression. The Commissioner of Public Works has frequently shown that he is a practical friend of the toilers of the country.

Mr. French took a firm stand in behalf of his bill amending the law of slander. If it does not pass in its entirety the introduction of the bill will not be without good results in eventually throwing a larger amount of protection over persons clouded by the breath of slander. Rather curiously, but aptly, a despatch from Halifax, N. S., in another column illustrates the working of this Slander Act in the only province in Canada in which it exists in the shape of Mr. French's measure.

It is anticipated that the railway deputation which will meet the Government after the adjournment to-morrow (Friday) will be the largest of the session. The City Councils of Toronto and Hamilton will be represented, while delegates are expected from Algoma, Parry Sound, and from Eastern and Western Ontario. The deputation will be reinforced by a considerable number of the members of the Legislature. Around the House little is heard about the re-opening of a railway policy, and if there is any feeling at all about the subject it is of a remarkably passive character.

Ridgetown has the reputation of being a prosperous and progressive municipality, the only drawback experienced by the good people there and in the surrounding district being, according to a deputation which waited on the Government, the distance from which business men are from the registry office. The gentlemen who waited on the Attorney-General, A. M. Ross, G. W. Ross and J. M. Gibson, were:—B. Wilson, Mayor; J. A. Dart, Reeve; Charles Shaw, James Grant, Thomas Brown and Nathaniel Mills. They were introduced by Mr. Ferguson, the member for Kent, and in the course of their representations urged that a registry office should be established in Ridgetown, because people living in the eastern part of the county were seriously inconvenienced by having to go to Chatham to attend to business relating to registration.

Mr. Wm. Bowes, Greenock, and Mr. Henry Brown, Elderslie, found their way into the reporters' room during the afternoon. They, of course, were heartily welcomed by the representatives of the

press. Both gentlemen are well known in the County of Bruce—Mr. Bowes for his metaphysical speculations and Mr. Brown for his deep and profound appreciation of the beauties of English literature from Shakespeare to Tennyson. They are good friends, although agreeing only absolutely on one thing, viz., that the Liberal party must soon succeed in opening up the channels of trade, and, true to its principles, abolish all forms of that class legislation from which the agricultural industry is suffering. Mr. Brown, as an old member of the County Council of Bruce, is not in favor of keeping such bodies any longer in their present shape. He believes that the work could be performed by the members of the Local Legislature for the county and representatives elected by the Reeves of the municipalities at a meeting convened each year for that purpose. Six men would be sufficient to compose the Board.

The following had the honor of being invited to dine with the hon. the Speaker, and Mrs. Baxter in the evening:—The Bishop of Toronto, Vicar-General Laurent, Hon. J. B. Robinson, Hon. O. Mowat, Hon. A. M. Ross, Hon. G. W. Ross, Hon. J. M. Gibson, Col. Clarke, Lieut.-Col. Gilmor, Lieut.-Col. Morin, Commander Law, John Cameron, Sheriff Mowat, Dr. Chas. O'Reilly, Dr. McLaughlin, W. R. Meredith, David Creighton, F. J. French, T. D. Craig, A. F. Wood, James Clancy, Alfred Evanturel, Nicol Kingsmill, Dr. McMahon, Dr. Willoughby, G. W. Monk, D. Guthrie, Thos. Gibson, H. P. O'Connor, Dr. Preston, Mr. Stevenson, Thomas Ballantyne, J. A. McAndrew, G. B. Smith, H. E. Clarke, N. Awrey, H. R. Harcourt, John Leys, J. B. Freeman, James Massie, County Crown Attorney Badgerow and Sergeant-at-Arms Glackmeyer. The dinner was served in room 16, which was gaily decorated for the occasion, thus ushering in the first of the series of the Speaker's hospitalities for the session with more than the usual brilliancy and luxurious surroundings.

The letter of "Taxpayer" which appeared in THE GLOBE of Wednesday regarding the comparatively small salaries paid the Attorney-General and his colleagues, has attracted much attention among the members of the Assembly. One of the most intelligent supporters of the Opposition concurs in the view that the Attorney-General of Ontario receives far too little compensation for the discharge of duties requiring large knowledge of a high order, legislative ability, and with all that prudence and tact necessary for the leader of a Government. These opinions are largely shared by members, it being difficult for them to understand why the rich and prosperous Province of Ontario should expect a man of Mr. Mowat's great talents to give his undivided services for the petty salary attached to the office. It would appear also that many of the employees of the House are paid miserably poor salaries. But, as was pointed out to THE GLOBE by a member of the Civil Service, there are those who receive too much for all they do, their whole aim being to escape work and thus throw additional burdens upon their fellow-employees. His suggestion was that the heads of departments should investigate into the affair and dismiss all those who are merely drawing a salary without doing anything much to deserve it. After in this way securing active and industrious servants, let them be paid salaries upon which they can live without the degrading influence of running into debt to keep up the dignity of the position. It is found that these views largely prevail amongst the industrious employees of the House, they having come to the conclusion that the drones of the departments are responsible for the small pay attached to Government offices. They believe that no one would find fault with the Ministers for granting proper compensation to faithful and deserving employees. The cry therefore is, no drones and more pay.