

brought up the contentious matter of the purchases for Government institutions. These and other questions were asked in a vague and indefinite manner, and the Commissioner of Crown Lands suggested that the questions be made more specific. At the same time he did his best to give the information asked. Mr. Meredith, who saw that his friends and followers were utterly unable to cope with the subject they had started, kindly came to their rescue and denounced the Government vigorously for being in power. They would have been out of power before this, he argued, if they had not used the people's money to strengthen themselves with. Hon. Mr. Fraser insisted that no Government had ever attempted to purchase all supplies for all institutions by tender. Some monstrous frauds had been perpetrated on Governments in this manner. The Government have pursued the same course in the matter of purchasing supplies as the Ottawa Government. Naturally, in the case of those goods not tendered for, the Government dealt with their friends when they were able to make the best bargains with them, or even equally good bargains. A final spar between Mr. Morgan, Mr. Awrey, Mr. Meredith and Mr. G. B. Smith brought the hour to six o'clock, when the committee chairman reported progress to the Speaker and the House adjourned.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Ostrom—On Monday next—Inquiry if the Government have received a copy of the petition of Charles J. Masson and others, respecting the removal of obstructions in the River Trent, and what is the intention of the Government with regard to the said petition? Also, have the Government any jurisdiction in the premises?

Mr. Willoughby—On Monday next—That leave be granted to present a petition of the Brighton & Warkworth Railway Company, praying for the passing of an Act to waive the said company's Act of incorporation, and to extend the time for completing the said railway; that the said petition be then read by the clerk at the table, and that the rules of the House be suspended, and that leave may be given to them to introduce a bill entitled an Act to Waive the Charter of the Brighton & Warkworth Railway Company and for other purposes.

Mr. Morgan—On Monday next—Bill to amend the Act for the Protection of Game and Fur-Bearing Animals.

Mr. McKay—Bill to amend the Joint Stock Company's Winding-Up Act.

#### AROUND THE HOUSE.

##### ITEMS OF THE HOUSE, THE LOBBIES AND THE DEPARTMENTS.

Mr. Lyon has introduced a bill to confirm a by-law passed by the Corporation of Sault Ste. Marie for the construction of water-works, electric light, and for utilising the waters of Lake Superior. The Town of Sault Ste. Marie has guaranteed the bonds of the Ontario Water-power, Electric & Water-works Co. for five per cent. for twenty years on \$160,000. An agreement has been entered into by the Town of Sault Ste. Marie and the company to this effect. The Americans are constructing water-power at the American Sault at a cost of five millions, whereas the Canada water-power can be utilised for about \$100,000. The millers in Minneapolis and Indianapolis complain that the supply of water is getting short, the streams drying up. If this power were developed these millers would move their mills to the Canadian Sault, which would be a great benefit to Sault Ste. Marie.

##### DAMAGE TO LANDS.

The bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Hardy respecting damage to lands by flooding in the new districts of the Province will be the means of giving ample and cheap relief to property-owners there. It provides that when any incorporated company working under the Timber Slide Companies Act or similar powers, lumber company or mill-owner causes damage to the land of any person alleged to amount to \$20 and not exceeding \$500, such person may apply to the judge or stipendiary magistrate of the district to determine the claim under the provisions of the Act. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint a commissioner to investigate claims under the Act.

##### THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

Mr. Graham, who made a very sensible speech on Mr. Awrey's motion regarding the Provincial Exhibition, amongst other things, said:—"Eight or nine years ago I moved in the direction of discontinuing the grant for the Provincial Exhibition. I took the ground that the Exhibition had outlived its usefulness; secondly, that the management was bad; that the secretary controlled the directors, instead of the directors controlling him. At present there is no complaint of that kind. I believe the management under the present Board is unexceptional."

#### MUSKOKA AND PARRY SOUND.

The Attorney-General's bill, making further provision respecting the Districts of Parry Sound and Muskoka, has been printed and distributed. Its salient points are that the powers imposed by the Assessment Act upon the treasurer of any county regarding the collection of taxes and the sale of lands for taxes shall in these districts be performed by the sheriffs of said districts, and that the deputy clerk shall issue writs of actions in the district court and in the High Court of Justice in Muskoka, and have similar powers as those now possessed by the clerk of the District of Parry Sound.

#### THE JESUIT BILL.

Mr. Evanturel was asked what he thought of the present agitation in Ontario anent the Jesuit Bill at Quebec, and he replied that he was at a loss to see the alarming features of this movement. The Jesuits had been the very first pioneers of Christian civilisation in Canada. They had found Niagara Falls, and preached the Gospel on the banks of our Ontario lakes. They never held an acre of land from either the French Government or any other Government. People who had no natural heirs have left real estate to the society for the purpose of developing education. This was done by will in most instances, and no man of sense can question the right of an individual to will his property to whomsoever he pleases. It is the very essence of British law that a man enjoys the right of

disposing as he pleases of his estate. When the Order was suppressed in Canada, it was claimed that the head of the Church of Rome should have fallen heir to this estate. This property was valued by many at two millions, and Rome expressed the desire that a large portion of this property should go to the most important educational establishment in Quebec—Laval University—and to the Jesuits for the support of their colleges in Montreal and elsewhere in Canada. The \$60,000 given to the Protestants of Quebec by Mr. Mercier was a mere act of generosity, and a pure donation to give another tangible proof of the liberality of Quebec to the minority. They had not the slightest claim to the grant, and the leading members of the Protestant hierarchy in Quebec have thanked the Government for this generous gift. If the representatives of the people have not the right of disposing of the public funds of their respective Provinces, continued Mr. Evanturel, without being vetoed, then responsible and constitutional government is a sham. Should Quebec ever attempt to question that right in Ontario, our whole press and legislators would properly answer, "Mind your own business, and let us manage our own." It is amusing to find people here pretending to know better than the Protestants of Quebec themselves how they are treated.

#### JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Dr. McKay's bill, notice of which was given to-day, is to amend the law respecting the winding up of joint stock companies. It is meant to prevent a stockholder of any joint stock company instituting proceedings to wind up a company unless there is good and sufficient grounds for doing so.

#### WATER-WORKS FOR TOWNS.

The member for South Oxford has also introduced an amendment to the Municipal Act applying the principle of extending water-works to cities and towns as well as to cities of over 50,000 inhabitants.

H. J. Snelgrove, editor of The Cobourg World, was with his confreres in the press gallery all afternoon. The World occupies a high position amongst the journals of the country and in Midland Ontario holds an influence corresponding with the marked ability with which it is conducted.

The Misses Rayside, daughters of the popular member for Glengarry, had seats on the floor of the House during the afternoon and appeared to enjoy the debates arising from the consideration of the estimates. They are en route to Western Ontario to visit friends.

The following had the honor of dining with the Speaker in the evening:—Messrs. Balfour, Acland, Drury, Tooley, Lees, Lyon, Garson, Miller, Rayside, Bishop, Hess, Notman, Armstrong, Mack, Davies, Ostrom, Hudson, Waters, Field, Rorke and Sprague.