

THE LEGISLATURE.

A BIG BATCH OF BILLS SENT TO THE COMMITTEES.

**Purchase of Toll Roads—Debate on the Law of Seduction—Private Bills—Births, Deaths and Marriages—Deputations—License Commissioners and Other Appointments.**

FRIDAY, February 22.

The House got through a good deal of business this afternoon. There was not a great deal of talking, but what was said was, as a rule, to the point. The doings of the afternoon were of a nature to justify the Attorney-General's prediction yesterday of a short session.

FIRST READINGS.

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

- An Act to amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Bronson.
- An Act to incorporate the Sarnia, Lambton & London railway—Mr. Graham.
- An Act to amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Garson.
- An Act respecting the Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo railway—Mr. O'Connor.
- An Act respecting St. James' church, Toronto—Mr. O'Connor.
- An Act respecting the Port Arthur Water, Light & Power Company—Mr. Connee.

PURCHASE OF TOLL ROADS.

Mr. McMahon moved the second reading of his bill to facilitate the purchase of toll roads by municipalities. The bill is substantially to furnish machinery for the object named and has been already explained in THE GLOBE. The bill was read a second time and sent to the Municipal Committee.

INSPECTION OF BOILERS, ETC.

Mr. Garson moved the second reading of his bill respecting the examination of engineers and inspection of boilers. The bill, he said, differed but little from that introduced by him last year, and it was unnecessary for him to explain it in detail. The principle of the bill is the appointment of inspectors for the compulsory examination and certificating of persons having charge of boilers and also for the proper examination of boilers. It was discussed briefly and, as a rule, favorably. Mr. Phelps and Mr. Wood, of Brant, were well disposed to it. So was Mr. Meredith, but he thought the Government ought to assume responsibility for or against it. Mr. Rayside and Mr. Graham raised points of objection. The bill was read and referred to a special committee.

A bill by Mr. Field to make a technical change in the Municipal Act was read a second time.

CONCERNING ARBITRATIONS.

Mr. Ferguson moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Municipal Act in respect to arbitrations, as previously explained. The bill proposes to make the county judge the arbitrator in cases of arbitration occurring under the Act and his award to be final. Mr. Meredith and Mr. Hardy both commented on the importance of the bill, the latter hon. gentleman taking occasion to suggest in connection with it that bills of such importance should receive a discussion in the House before they went to committee. Many important changes to the municipal law were discussed in committee and the public knew nothing about what was being done, whereas by a discussion in the House they were generally made aware of the nature of any intended changes. Mr. Ferguson approved the principle of the bill, but he thought it would have a tendency to reduce the present heavy cost of arbitrations and the evil growing out of the too many professional arbitra-

tors. Mr. Waters objected that the bill was a very radical one, and in some particulars at least would prove a retrograde step. Mr. Whitney thought that under the present system of arbitration very many of the arbitrators simply considered themselves bound to support the claim of the party they represented. The bill was then read a second time and referred to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. Hudson's bill to amend the Municipal Act by prohibiting colorable transfers of property in order to qualify as a voter was read a second time.

THE LAW OF SEDUCTION.

Mr. Whitney moved to amend the Act

respecting seduction, as follows:—

Any person authorised so to do in writing by any unmarried female who has neither father nor mother living, or who has neither father nor mother capable of bringing an action for her seduction under this Act, may bring and maintain an action as the master of such unmarried female, for her seduction; and upon the trial of such action it shall not be necessary to give proof of any act of service performed by the person seduced, but the same shall in all cases be presumed, and no proof shall be received to the contrary.

Hon. Mr. Fraser strongly opposed the measure. It would considerably extend the field for litigation in connection with the Act, the latitude allowed by which was already, in his opinion, much abused. He did not see why such a fiction as that proposed should be introduced into the law.

Mr. Whitney would withdraw the bill if the Government insisted, but he suggested a compromise.

Mr. French defended the bill.

Mr. Meredith thought the bill should go to committee.

The Attorney-General thought the bill was too general in character to remedy the evil it was aimed at. He suggested that a new bill should be introduced to meet the difficulty complained of.

Mr. O'Connor—Under the present law orphan girls, as well as illegitimate unmarried women who have no master, are unable to bring action for damages for seduction.

The bill was then withdrawn.

Mr. Freeman's bill to amend the Line Fences Act was read a second time. Mr. Dack's bill to amend the Municipal Act was advanced to a similar stage.

GAME LAW AMENDMENTS.

Two bills standing in the name of Mr. Bronson—the first to amend the Timber Slide Companies Act, and the second to amend the Act for the protection of game and fur-bearing animals, were read a second time. The proposed amendment to the game law is as follows:—

Any person furnishing satisfactory evidence as to any of the said animals or birds, or any part or portion of any such animals or birds found in his or her possession during the periods in which they are so protected, that the killing, taking or purchasing was done prior to such periods, or in any place outside the limits of this Province at a time when such killing, taking or purchasing was not there prohibited, or in any place outside the Dominion of Canada, shall be exempt from the penalties of this Act: provided that they may be exposed for sale for fifteen days and no longer after such periods.

A bill introduced by Mr. Waters to make more intelligible the 590th section of the Municipal Act was read a second time.

A bill introduced by Mr. Graham to amend the Municipal Act by declaring that no municipal corporation shall be required to fence or otherwise guard any ditch or watercourse running along any public highway when the depth of such ditch or watercourse does not exceed two feet, was read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS.

The following private bills were read a second time without debate:—

Respecting certain railway debenture debts of the Township of Somerville—Mr. Feil.

To amend the Act incorporating the Township of Pelee—Mr. Balfour.

Respecting a certain railway debenture debt of the united Townships of Laxton, Digby and Longford—Mr. Feil.

To confirm a conveyance made by the Town of Barrie to her Majesty the Queen—Mr. Drury.

Respecting St. Jude's church, Oakville—Mr. Kerns.

To enable the trustees under the will of the late Hon. James Morris to sell real estate—Mr. Fraser.

Respecting the Town of Port Arthur—Mr. Connee.

To amend the Act relating to the Land Security Company—Mr. Leys.

To consolidate the debt of the Town of Amherstburg—Mr. Balfour.

To enable the City of Ottawa to issue debentures for water-works purposes—Mr. Bronson.

Respecting by-law No. 92, of the Town of Gravenhurst—Mr. Marter.

To incorporate the Town of Bracebridge and for other purposes—Mr. Marter.

To incorporate the Town of West Toronto Junction—Mr. Gilmour.

To simplify the sales of property held in trust for the Church of England in the Diocese of Toronto—Mr. Hardy.

To confirm the title of the Corporation of the County of York to the York roads and the surveys thereof—Mr. Smith (York).

AROUND THE HOUSE.

ITEMS FROM THE HOUSE, THE LOBBIES AND DEPARTMENTS.

A copy of the annual report for the year 1887 of the registration of births, marriages

and deaths was presented to the House by the Hon. the Provincial Secretary. The returns show that during the year the number of births registered was 45,904; of marriages, 14,460; of deaths, 23,414—showing a decrease in births of 554, an increase of marriages of 615, and an increase in deaths of 230. The ratios to population were as follows:—Births, 21.7 per 1,000; marriages, 6.8 per 1,000; deaths, 11.5 per 1,000. The ratios to population regarding births in cities, towns and rural districts were as follows:—Cities, 27.5 per 1,000; towns, 21.8, and rural districts, 20.6. The ratios of marriages in cities, 11.1 per 1,000; in towns, 13.7 per 1,000. The following shows the death rate per 1,000 in the cities:—Toronto, 21.3; Hamilton, 16.5; Ottawa, 22.3; London, 15.6; Kingston, 17.7; Brantford, 15.2; St. Thomas, 15; Guelph, 17.3; St. Catharines, 17; Belleville, 17.3; Stratford, 11.2.

LICENSE COMMISSIONERS.

The Government have appointed the following license commissioners:—

Oxford, South—James Ryan, Culloden, in the room and stead of Ed. Borland, resigned.

Grey, North—James Stewart, Meaford; James Sharpe, jun., Owen Sound; Wm. Q. Brown, Owen Sound.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS.

John B. McColl, of Cobourg, solicitor of the Supreme Court of Judicature for Ontario, to be a notary public; George Wellington Greene, of the Village of Athens, solicitor, to be a notary public; Edmund Byron LeRoy, of the Village of Coboconk, to be a notary public.

PROPERTY QUALIFICATION.

Mr. Garson introduced his bill doing away with property qualification for municipal offices.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY.

Miss Dupont and Mrs. Grasett interviewed Hon. A. M. Ross in the interests of the work carried on by the Humane Society of the City of Toronto. They explained that Dr. Hodgins' work, the "Aims and Objects of Humane Societies," had been distributed throughout the schools and other educational institutions of the city. They asked that the Treasurer should place the book in the libraries of the reformatories and other similar schools. Mr. Ross cheerfully acceded to the request of the ladies. They then saw Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, with a view to get him to give a place to the volume in all the Public and High schools of the Province. The Minister seemed to view the suggestion favorably and promised to give the subject his consideration, but in the meantime a copy of the book will be forwarded by the department to each Public and High School Inspector of the Province.

DEPUTATION FROM BRUCE.

John Pollard, Reeve of Tiverton, and N. B. McKinnon, of Underwood, had an interview with the Government, during which they forcibly advocated the claims of the Saugeen Valley railway scheme to Government support.

GOVERNMENT CAUCUS.

The Government and their supporters were in caucus for an hour or so before the House met.

AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

The following members of the Provincial Legislature had the honor of being invited to dine at Government House last night, viz:—

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| The Hon. Mr. Mowat,    | Mr. Thomas Gibson,    |
| Mr. John Gilmour,      | Mr. Isaac Gould,      |
| Mr. Peter Graham,      | Mr. Donald Guthrie,   |
| Mr. Wm. Hammell,       | Mr. Richard Harcourt, |
| The Hon. Mr. Hardy,    | Mr. George Hess,      |
| Mr. Andrew Ingram,     | Mr. William Hudson,   |
| Mr. William Lees,      | Mr. William Kerns,    |
| Mr. Robert Lyon,       | Mr. John Leys,        |
| The Hon. Mr. Drury,    | Mr. John McAndrew,    |
| Mr. William Mack,      | Mr. Angus McKay,      |
| Mr. Isaac Master,      | Mr. Jas. McLaughlin,  |
| Mr. James Metcalfe,    | Mr. George Marter,    |
| Mr. George Monk,       | Mr. Walter Meacham,   |
| The Hon. Alex. Ross,   | Mr. William Morgan,   |
| Mr. John Miller,       | Mr. H. O'Connor,      |
| Mr. Orson Phelps,      | Mr. Gilbert Ostrom,   |
| Mr. James Rayside,     | Mr. Robert Preston,   |
| Mr. George Smith,      | Mr. Joseph Rorke,     |
| Mr. Elias Snider,      | Mr. Hugh Smith,       |
| The Hon. Geo. W. Ross, | Mr. James Stratton,   |
| Mr. Richard Tooley,    | Mr. Falkner Stewart,  |
| Mr. James Whitney,     | Mr. John Sprague,     |
| Mr. Alpheus Wood,      | Mr. John Waters,      |
| Mr. William Wood,      | Mr. Wm. Willoughby,   |
| Mr. Thomas Wiley,      | Lieut. Col. Dawson,   |
|                        | and Lieut.-Col. Gray. |

A. C. H. W. B. S. SOCIETY