

the public institutions. He thought the Government to blame in not having had the matter looked into earlier.

Mr. A. M. Ross rose to say that the complaint of the Government was that the City of Toronto is charging double the rate for water supplied to the public institutions over other consumers. This was not fair, and it could not well be explained in view of the great advantages accruing to the city from having the Provincial institutions within its precincts.

Mr. Hardy charged the city with not meeting the negotiations proposed by the Government in that fair manner which would tend to settle the difficulty. During his remarks the hon. gentleman took occasion to refer to the water meters at present in use in the city as being absolutely useless and untrustworthy.

The Mayor expressed his genuine surprise at this statement, and said the very highest testimonials could be adduced as to the effectiveness of the meter now in use in the city. He stated further that metered houses paid a lower water rate than unmetered houses, because they paid by the gallon. The Government institutions were all metered, and the presumption was that they paid less per gallon for their water than the ordinary citizen, who was unmetered.

#### BUSH FIRES.

Mr. Meacham moved that a select committee be appointed, consisting of Messieurs Ballantyne, Dance, Drury, French, Garson, Hudson, Ingram, Meacham and Rayside, to inquire into the best means of preventing the setting out and spread of bush fires, with power to send for persons, papers and documents, and with instructions to report by bill or otherwise.

The resolution was discussed at some length, generally with favor, and carried unanimously. On the suggestion of Mr. Fraser it was made to apply to newly-settled districts only.

#### HANNAH BOYD'S ARREST.

Mr. Creighton moved for an order of the House for a return of all correspondence between the Department of the Attorney-General, or any officer employed by the Government, and any person or persons, respecting the arrest and incarceration of one Hannah Boyd on a criminal charge, and the reported refusal of the authorities to permit legal counsel to have an opportunity of consulting or advising with her as to her defence. Mr. Creighton pointed out that the arrest was made in connection with the atrocious crime known as the Galt tragedy, in which poisoned candies were sent through the post to several Galt families, with fatal results.

The Attorney-General, in reply, pointed out that it would not be in the interests of the public that the correspondence should be published, as the House would easily understand. It was a very regrettable matter that the person committing the foul crime in question had not yet been discovered. As to Hannah Boyd, whose innocence was subsequently established, it was supposed that she was in collusion with a man who was believed by the detectives to be involved in the crime committed. The refusal to allow her to consult with legal counsel on a particular occasion was made in the interests of justice, and because it was believed the counsel who sought to consult with her was also counsel for the man believed to be so involved. It was not at all intended to deprive her of legal counsel in ample time to enable justice to be done.

Mr. Meredith and Mr. Creighton both objected to the Attorney-General's explanation.

It being six o'clock the House adjourned.

#### AROUND THE HOUSE.

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

Mr. Awrey has introduced an amendment to the Act respecting references and arbitrations, the purport of which is as follows:—Where an arbitration to determine a dispute is consented to without the number of arbitrators being mentioned, either party to the agreement, after giving seven days' notice, may apply to a Superior Court judge to appoint the necessary arbitrators.

##### PRIVILEGES TO MUNICIPALITIES.

The object of Mr. A. F. Wood's bill is to give the same privileges to municipalities to grant more extensive aid to public enterprises by way of building bridges, etc. This amendment, Mr. Wood believes, is necessary, owing to the decision of Justice Street, quashing the by-law passed by the Council of the Village of Ameliasburg.

##### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

In the Act respecting the administration of justice in certain cases, introduced by the Attorney-General, there is a clause providing that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint a second police magis-

trate for any city, if the City Council pass a resolution affirming the expediency thereof. Also on the death or resignation of a Division Court clerk, the County Crown Attorney shall act until a successor is appointed. There is another clause to the effect that where the fees payable to a Surrogate judge exceed the sum of \$1,000, a sum not exceeding \$666 may be paid out of the excess to the junior judge of the county whether there has or has not been a commutation of fees as regards the senior judge.

##### GUARDING AGAINST INTIMIDATION.

Mr. Conmee's amendment to the Municipal Act aims at protecting an employee against intimidation from an employer during the election of a representative to the Provincial Legislature.

##### INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS.

The special committee appointed to consider the bill respecting the protection of insectivorous birds met in the morning. The bill was passed, with an amendment that crows, hawks and blackbirds should not be protected by legislation from slaughter.

##### MARINE INSURANCE.

In the Private Bills committee the bill respecting marine-mutual insurance incorporation was the principal subject discussed. It appeared as if the bill will be recommended on the understanding that similar safety clauses found in regular insurance charters will be inserted amongst its clauses.

##### NOTES.

Mr. Davis, of North York, was in his seat during the afternoon, feeling much better from the illness which overcame him on Monday afternoon, and which, to his regret, prevented him from taking part in the discussion of legislation brought before the Assembly during the week.

##### JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Mr. McKay's bill to amend the Joint Stock Companies Winding-Up Act is framed to prevent a stockholder without sufficient notice from winding-up a company, or to institute proceedings before a county judge with that object in view.

##### PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL.

The various municipalities of Prescott and Russell will vote next week on the proposed bonuses to the Vaudreuil & Prescott railway. Mr. Evanturel left to-night to address several public meetings in the interests of the railway.

##### ASSESSMENT ACT AMENDMENTS.

The Government will set apart a day for the discussion of the various amendments to the Assessment Act, including Mr. Waters' "Local Option" and Mr. Garson's \$600 exemption measure.

##### THE FRUITGROWERS.

A deputation from the Ontario Fruit-growers' Association, consisting of McD. Allan, Goderich; E. W. Wellington, Toronto, and T. H. Race, Mitchell, waited on the Minister of Agriculture at his office to-day and presented a request for some help to enable the fruitgrowers to send delegates to the various Farmers' Institute meetings. In the course of the discussion it was stated that the farmers strongly desire the presence of the fruitgrowers at their meetings so that questions relating to fruit culture may be thoroughly discussed. The fruitgrowers, feeling unable of themselves to meet the expense of sending delegates to the various meetings, desired the Government to come to their assistance. Mr. Drury agreed that the presence of the fruitgrowers at the institute meetings was a highly commendable object and suggested that the fruitgrowers appoint three or four delegates in various parts of the country to attend the meetings. The Government would contribute \$2 50 per day toward their expenses. In pursuance of this decision the president of the fruit-growers will, after consultation with his fellow-officers, appoint four representative men to see to the interests of fruit culture at the meetings of the various institutes. The members of the deputation are well pleased with the result of their labors.

##### ONTARIO APPOINTMENTS.

Archibald L. McDonald, to be coroner for the County of Glengarry.

James R. Brown, solicitor, Picton, to be a notary public.

John Shaw Skinner, Kingston, to be a notary public.

James Johnston, of the Township of Carrick, to be a notary public.

Archibald McGill, of Kingston, to be deputy clerk of the Crown and Pleas, clerk of the County Court and registrar of the

Surrogate Court, in the room and stead of John Fraser, deceased.

George Manning, of the Township of Fenelon, to be bailiff of the Second Division Court of the County of Victoria.

John M. Burke, of Blenheim, to be bailiff of the Fourth Division Court of the County of Kent, in the room of John Little, deceased.