

THE LEGISLATURE.

AN UNEVENTFUL DAY IN THE OLD CHAMBER.

A Good Deal of Work Disposed of in the Committees—One or Two Lively Discussions There—The House in Committee all Day.

MARCH 5, 1889.

Government orders took up the time of the House to-day, and most of the time was spent in committee.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Attorney-General—A bill entitled An Act to amend certain laws of the municipalities of the Province.

Attorney-General—A bill entitled An Act to amend an Act respecting incorporated companies.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—

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

To amend the Ontario Shops Regulation Act, 1888—Mr. Fraser.

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

To enable the Presbytery of Guelph to set apart for burial purposes and to sell certain glebe lands in the Township of Puslinch—Mr. Guthrie.

Respecting certain property of the Presbyterian Church at Vankloek Hill—Mr. Evanturel.

Respecting St. Andrew's Church, Darlington—Mr. McLaughlin.

To incorporate the Village of Sundridge—Mr. Armstrong.

Respecting the Rideau Club—Mr. Monk.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE.

The House then went into committee and advanced a number of Government orders a stage. The only bill on which there was a discussion of any moment was that proposing to amend the Pharmacy Bill, the Opposition criticisms upon which elicited from the Provincial Secretary, who had charge of the bill, the statement that the bill had been thoroughly discussed all over the Province, and that the druggists of nearly every city and town in the Province, with the exception of those of Toronto, had expressed themselves in favor of the bill. He had yet to hear from one town outside of Toronto in which there was any opposition to the bill. The discussion was confined mainly to the physicians of the House, Mr. Meredith, however, taking a hand in on the part of the Opposition. He suggested that the tendency of the bill might be to make more difficult the entry into the profession. That was the tendency of legislation connected with the legal profession, and did not meet with his approval. The Provincial Secretary admitted that the bill would require a rather higher standard of qualifications than had been in vogue hitherto; but its main object was to secure reciprocity of certificates with the other Provinces and with the United States. The bill was eventually reported without change and the House then went into committee of supply.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The House continued in committee after recess, and without much discussion the following sums were voted:—On account of immigration, \$6,850, as compared with \$8,000 last year; on account of agriculture, \$142,287, as against \$141,931; on account of hospitals and charities, \$120,527 66, as against \$113,686 14 last year; on account of maintenance and repairs of Government and Departmental buildings, \$64,140 66, as against \$64,176 43 last year; on account of public buildings, including \$88,100 re-voted from last year, \$471,636 67, as against \$281,412 20 last year; and on account of public works, \$30,759, including a re-vote from last year of \$4,059, as against \$50,496, voted last year.

A considerable discussion took place over the expenditure in connection with the Agricultural College and farm, but nothing material was developed. Later on when the vote for public buildings came up, Mr. Creighton asked if the present would not be a convenient time for the Commissioner of Public Works to make a statement to the House as to the progress of the new Parliament buildings. The item was not included under the head of public buildings, but the present was as convenient a time as any. Mr. Fraser replied that the work had progressed duly during the year, and he gave a general outline of the present condition of the work. He added that he was glad to be able to

state that up to the present time there had been no extras incurred, whereat Mr. Creighton murmured that there was plenty of time yet. Mr. Fraser also referred to the contention that there was an insufficiency of Credit Valley stone available for the construction of the new Parliament buildings, and answered it by remarking that he had spoken to the contractor on the point and the contractor had assured him that he had in his own quarry enough of such stone to construct four such buildings.

As soon as the committee had risen and reported the above items the House adjourned, there being several deputations waiting on the Government.

AROUND THE HOUSE.

LIVELY DISCUSSIONS IN COMMITTEES AND CORRIDORS.

Bursar Anglin, of the Kingston Asylum for the Insane, was examined before the Public Accounts Committee in reference to sundry purchases made for the institution. The examination was conducted mainly by Mr. Clancy and Mr. French on the part of the Opposition, the Treasurer and the Commissioner of Crown Lands looking after the interests of the Government. Mr. Clancy's examination was directed chiefly to the matter of shirrings, the quality of the material used for such. He endeavored to show that the Government, in dealing with their friends instead of with those politically opposed to them, were not always particular as to the prices paid, not careful, in fact, to pay the "lowest price" for the goods purchased. The results of the examination can hardly be said to sustain Mr. Clancy's contention, Mr. Anglin's evidence being to the effect that when the institution under his care was taken over from the Dominion Government in 1877 he had received instructions from Inspector Langmuir, on behalf of the Government, to deal with friends of the Government when no disadvantage was incurred in doing so. That plan had been pursued only when there was no disadvantage in it. The examination showed that a pretty strict supervision of accounts is kept at the asylum itself, in addition to the auditing they undergo when they are sent into the department. Mr. Anglin expressed himself as being decidedly of opinion that the present method of purchasing supplies pursued in connection with the asylum, under which only certain articles are tendered for, is the best and by far the most economical that can be found. His conclusions are the result of seventeen years' experience as bursar of the institution named. Incidentally, also, the witness brought out the fact that the policy now pursued in purchasing said supplies for that institution is virtually the same as that pursued by the authorities of the asylum while it was a Dominion institution, his bursarship having commenced during that period.

PRIVATE BILLS COMMITTEE.

As was anticipated, room 16, where the Private Bills Committee met in the morning, was for some time the scene of much excitement and wrangling over a few of the clauses in the Act respecting the City of Toronto, and the Act consolidating the debenture debt of the city. Nearly all the members of the City Council, headed by the Mayor, president and members of the Council of the Board of Trade, a number of citizens, the city solicitor, Mr. Mr. B. B. Osler, Mr. Shepley and others surrounded the committee to oppose the bills submitted. As was

before explained, the consolidation of the city's debt is asked in order that the borrowing power of the city shall be raised at least \$3,000,000 to provide for the completion of contemplated works. Clause No. 1 of the bill, after the speakers were heard, was amended so that the borrowing power shall be 12½ per cent. on the first \$100,000,000 of the assessment and 8 per cent. on the remainder; the waterworks debentures, owing to the fact that they are actual paying assets, having been left out of the provisions of the clause. The clause providing for the issue of permanent debenture stock was eliminated from the bill and was replaced by a clause providing for the establishment of a sinking fund to meet debentures as they mature. The debentures were payable at 40 instead of 50 years. These amendments were made at the recommendation of the members of the Board of Trade, who thoroughly endorsed the amended bill. Ex-Mayor Manning opposed the bill on the general ground that the assessment was already too high in Toronto and that the financial standing of the city will be ruined unless a halt is called in the annual expenditure. The bill entitled "An Act respecting the City of Toronto" created a good deal of discussion, but when the powers sought for and the peculiar circumstances existing were explained the bill passed with slight amendments, the only clause thrown out being that confirming a decision of the City Council giving ex-City Treasurer Harman an annual retiring allowance of \$2,000. The committee authorized the Council to borrow \$125,000 for the Don improvements and \$60,000 for the construction of the northwesterly branch of the Garrison Creek sewer. The clause affecting the purchase of the street railway was changed so that the ratepayers will have to be consulted to legalize the borrowing of the money necessary therefor.

EX-CITY TREASURER HARMAN.

The members and officials of the City Council were amazed and grieved at the decision of the committee rejecting the clause providing ex-Treasurer Harman with an annuity of \$2,000. The vote was as follows:—For the clause—Leys and A. F. Wood; against—Morin, Davis, Balfour, Garson, Snider, Field and Waters. The committee, however, took the view that the proposal was a novel one and might establish a dangerous precedent if sanctioned by the House.

NO ADMISSION FOR A LAWYER.

The Private Bills Committee rejected the Act to authorize the Supreme Court of Judicature for Ontario to admit George MacGregor Gardner to practise as a solicitor. The preamble of the bill stated that Mr. Gardner served an apprenticeship of five years with a solicitor in Scotland, and from 1871 until 1876 he practised law in that country. In that year he came to this city and has been engaged as clerk in law offices and practised law as far as he could up to date. He never was, however, entered upon the books of the Law Society, and hence the necessity for special legislation. Mr. John Hoskin opposed the bill in the interest of the Benchers of the Law Society, arguing that if Mr. Gardner was a duly qualified Scottish solicitor the door of the society was opened to him by serving one year under articles and passing the necessary examination.

LOOKING AFTER YORK'S INTERESTS.

When the bill respecting the City of Toronto came before the Private Bills Committee, Mr. G. B. Smith, M.P.P. for East York, asked the chairman to consider the last clause first, as the members of the Legislative Committee of the County of York interested in the clause were waiting to make representations to the committee. This was courteously granted. The clause empowered the City Council to impose market fees on all produce coming into the city even if it did not come near the market place. On motion of Mr. Smith, who watches closely all legislation affecting his constituents, the clause was struck out.

A COAT FOR MR. EVANTUREL.

Mr. Evanturel was the other evening presented by his constituents with a Persian lamb coat, cap and gloves as a token of their esteem and a proof of his popularity