

# THE ASSEMBLY.

## A Dry Debate on the Liquor License Bill.

### SOME IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS.

Vessel Licenses to be Altogether Abolished.

### MR. HARDY'S MINING BILL.

The Land Titles Act—Mr. French's Resolutions and the Attorney-General's Bill—A University Bill Introduced by Mr. McLaughlin.

MARCH 11, 1890.

The House put in a busy day to-day. A good deal of hard Committee work was got through, especially on the Mining Bill and the Liquor License Bill. The members generally restrained themselves from doing much talking, and confined themselves to criticism.

#### FIRST READINGS.

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

An Act to amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Graham.

To amend the Assessment Act—Mr. Daek.

To amend the Free Grants and Homesteads Act—Mr. Fell.

To amend the Ditches and Watercourses Act—Mr. Clancy.

To provide means of extinguishing forest fires—Hon. Mr. Drury.

#### THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time and passed:—

Respecting the New York Life Insurance Company—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton).

Respecting the establishment of Houses of Refuge—Mr. Ross (Huron).

To provide for the appointment of junior Judges in provisional judicial districts—The Attorney-General.

Respecting the First Presbyterian Church at Clatham—Mr. Clancy.

To consolidate the debt of the Town of Listowel—Mr. Freeman.

#### HOUSE OF REFUGE BILL.

When Hon. A. M. Ross moved the third reading of the bill respecting the establishment of Houses of Refuge, Mr. Meredith moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Ingram, as follows:—"That this House regrets that no provision is made by the bill to confer upon cities the benefits conferred upon other municipalities." The Treasurer said the House could not accept the amendment, and repeated the arguments urged on the occasion of the second reading of the bill, viz., that the cities were now receiving large annual grants from the Provincial Treasury in aid of their charitable institutions, as, for instance, Toronto last year, according to public accounts, received \$51,000, Hamilton \$13,900, and London \$7,853. It was not unreasonable that when cities received aid so largely annually, the counties should receive once a capital sum not larger than four thousand dollars. Mr. Meredith said he did not want to take any part of the grants proposed to be allowed to counties, but wanted cities to have the same rights. The amendment was put, and declared lost on division.

#### THE MINING BILL.

The House then went into Committee on Mr. Hardy's Mining Bill, Mr. Harcourt in the chair. It was plentifully criticised, but not in an unfavorable spirit. A good deal of discussion took place on the clause relating to hours of employment of young persons. The bill now provides that

"A boy or male young person of the age of thirteen and under the age of sixteen years shall not be employed in or allowed to be for the purpose of employment in any mine to which this Act applies below ground for more than fifty-four hours in any one week, or more than ten hours in any one day, or otherwise than in accordance with the regulations."

Mr. Meredith wanted to have the maxi-

imum age made 18, but at Mr. Hardy's suggestion the clause stood over for the time. The clause also declaring that "no boy under the age of 13 years, and no girl or woman of any age, shall be employed in or allowed to be for the purpose of employment in any mine to which this Act applies below ground," was allowed to stand, some members thinking the age should be higher than the limit named.

Some members of the Opposition thought the clauses relating to returns to be furnished by owners and agents of mines should be made compulsory, as they are in the English Act. Mr. Hardy admitted that they might be made compulsory in some respects, and the clauses stood for correction.

The Committee then rose and reported progress.

The Committee sat again and advanced through the Committee stage the Attorney-General's bill to provide for the vacating of certificates of *lis pendens*. One or two suggestions were made by Mr. Meredith which the Attorney-General promised to consider.

#### LAND TITLES AMENDMENT BILL.

The Attorney-General explained at some length, upon moving its second reading, his bill to facilitate proceedings under the Land Titles Act. The clauses of the bill are of a technical character, and, as suggested in the title, have in view the easy working of the Act. The Attorney-General pointed out that the system of land transfer initiated under the Act, the Torrens system, was extensively used in Toronto, and by special provision was in general use in the districts of the Province, such as Muskoka, Algoma, etc., but that not a single county municipality had availed itself of its right to adopt the system. In Toronto it was interesting to remark that the Act was more successful even than in Australia, where it originated. He was surprised at this, because he felt that anybody who investigated the Act could not fail to recognise its value. He referred to the resolutions of which Mr. French had given notice on the subject, and said with regard to them, that the expense which Mr. French said was one of the main hindrances of the bill was not very heavy, and could not be responsible for the lack of interest shown in the Act; also that there would be no necessity for a new Registry Office.

The resolutions to which Mr. Mowat referred are as follows, being:—

That in the opinion of this House the extension of the provisions of the Land Titles Act, known as the Torrens system, of land transfer through Municipal Councils, as now authorised, section 132 of the Act, can only be effected by incurring large expense, and has therefore proved abortive.

That much of the expense of the machinery provided for by the said Act might be avoided. That Municipal Councils strongly object to establish offices over which they have no control, or to become responsible for salaries of officials, the amounts of which are not ascertained and in respect of the patronage of which they will have nothing to say.

That the Municipal Councils object to the expense of erecting new Registry Offices and to the unascertained expense of a salaried Inspector, which may be thrown upon them.

That, in the further opinion of this House, the Province should be divided into districts, each containing a number of counties, and that the said Act should be extended to the whole Province, in the same way that it has been so successfully inaugurated in the City of Toronto and County of York.

That a select Committee should be appointed or a Royal Commission issued, to inquire into

and report upon the whole question of land transfer and the best manner and means of extending the provisions of said Act to the whole Province, with power to send for persons, papers and documents.

Mr. French anticipated the moving of his resolutions and made some explanatory remarks in regard to them, contending for the accuracy of the statements made therein. He thought, too, that part of the disinclination to adopt the system was due to the disinclination of the Government to appoint new Registrars, who would be anxious to see the system adopted, and who would be able to perform the duties required of them under it.

Mr. Meredith said it was a matter of general regret that the Torrens title system was so little used. No doubt municipal bodies were slow to adopt it, because they feared there would be great expense. It could not be made compulsory, but he thought the Masters of Titles should have the right to register under the Torrens system.

Mr. Ostrom would like to see anything done to further the adoption of the Act, which he should like to see universal.

Mr. French asked the Attorney-General if he would take into consideration the advisability of appointing a Commission of experts, who should take evidence and otherwise do as he suggested, so that a report might be presented at the next session.

The bill was then read a second time.

#### CARLETON WINTER ASSIZES.

The Attorney-General moved the second