

THE ASSEMBLY.

Inspection of Stationary Boilers and Engineers.

MR. GARSON'S BILL IN COMMITTEE.

A Division on Mr. Whitney's Proposed Election Act Amendment.

THE REGISTRY OFFICE DIVISION.

It is Attacked by Mr. French and Defended by the Attorney-General—Mr. Creighton and the Department of Education.

April 1, 1890.

To-day was a very busy one at the Assembly. More time was spent over Mr. Garson's "Respecting the Examination of Stationary Engineers and the Inspection of Stationary Boilers" than on any other single measure. This was in Committee of the Whole, where the bill was very badly treated. Other discussions and divisions took place on Mr. Whitney's bill to amend the Ontario Election Act, and Mr. Creighton's bill to amend the Act respecting the Department of Education, the Government being handsomely sustained in each case. Mr. French's bill respecting registry and Sheriffs' fees was briefly discussed and "lost on a division." Other minor matters occupied the House till a late hour. The House meets to-morrow (Wednesday) at 11 a. m.

IN COMMITTEE.

The House went into Committee on two or three Government bills that were down for the third reading, and slight amendments unaffecting the general purport of the bills were made. The bills in question were the Attorney-General's bill to simplify the procedure for enforcing mechanics' liens and Hon. Mr. Gibson's bill respecting contracts of insurance. These bills were then reported for third reading to-morrow.

THIRD READINGS.

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

Respecting the culling and measurement of sawlogs cut upon Crown Lands—Hon. Mr. Hardy.

To incorporate the Arthur, Guelph & Ontario Railway Company—Mr. Clarke (Wellington).

To amend the Registry Act—Hon. Mr. Gibson.

MORNING SESSIONS.

The Attorney-General then moved a motion, the notice of which has been on the order paper for several days, namely, that of morning sittings for the remainder of the session, the morning sittings to last from eleven to one o'clock, and the other sittings to be as usual. The motion passed without even a murmur.

PUBLIC BILLS.

The House went into Committee on a number of public bills, viz:—

To amend the Act respecting conveyances to trustees for burial grounds—Mr. Waters.

To amend the Act respecting assignments and references by insolvent persons—Mr. Smith (York).

To amend the Municipal Waterworks Act—Mr. Phelps.

To amend the County Courts Act—Mr. Guthrie.

To amend the Division Courts Act—Mr. Guthrie.

To amend the law respecting powers of sale in mortgages—Mr. Guthrie.

To amend the Registry Act—Mr. Wood (Hastings).

To amend the Partition Act—Mr. French.

To amend the Act respecting the establishment of municipal institutions in the outlying districts—Mr. Conmee.

To amend the General Road Companies Act—Mr. McKay.

To amend the Act to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and diseases affecting fruit trees—Mr. Clancy.

To amend the Ontario Tree Planting Act—Mr. Freeman.

To amend the Surrogate Courts Act—Mr. French.

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To amend the Jurors' Act—Mr. Meredith.

To amend the Act respecting snow fences—Mr. Master.

To amend the Mechanics' Lien Act—Mr. Garson.

Respecting the Examination of Stationary Engineers and Inspection of Stationary Boilers—Mr. Garson.

THE ROAD COMPANIES' BILL.

The first clause of Mr. McKay's bill to amend the general Road Companies' Act gives the main object of the bill. It is as follows:—Every County Council may name and appoint by by-law an engineer to carry out the provision of this Act, and such engineer shall be and continue an officer of such corporation until his appointment is repealed by by-law and another appointed in his stead, who shall have authority as well to take as to continue any proceeding already commenced under this Act. The word "engineer" in this Act shall mean civil engineer, land surveyor, or such person as any County Council may deem competent to perform the duties required under this Act. The bill names the duties of the engineer, which are chiefly that of inspecting roads or bridges upon the requisition of one or more freeholders living within a mile from the said road or bridge. The rest of the bill provides the necessary machinery, etc.

INSPECTION OF STATIONARY BOILERS.

Mr. Garson moved the House into Committee on his bill respecting the examination of stationary engineers and the inspection of stationary boilers. The first clause of the bill embodies the scheme Mr. Garson has in mind. It is as follows:—

"(1) The Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall appoint a Chairman and a Board of Inspectors for the Province of Ontario, whose duty it shall be to inspect all boilers or other devices under pressure, and examine all persons who may apply for examination, and issue graded certificates to all applicants who are qualified to receive them."

The remainder of the bill prescribes the qualifications such inspectors shall possess, and defines their duties and makes sundry other provisions arising out of the first.

Mr. Meredith said he objected to the first clause. It was merely another scheme for the appointment of another set of Government officials.

Mr. Raeside went a step further and said he objected to the bill altogether. It was legislation for a particular class, the Brotherhood of Engineers, and the House should have nothing to do with it. There was too much inspection altogether. Why you could hardly do anything or go anywhere without being inspected in some way or another. There were more lives lost by the riding of unmanageable horses perhaps than in a good many other ways where an inspector was provided. It was a wonder somebody did not propose to have a man inspected to see if he were competent or not to ride. He thought the bill unnecessary and opposed it. He moved that the Committee rise.

Mr. Garson defended his bill and showed that there is great public interest in the measure. His mail is loaded every morning with commendations and suggestions from manufacturers and others

interested in the question, and there is an almost unanimous support on their part of the bill now before the House. He thought Mr. Raeside showed a lack of sympathy with workmen. The legislation proposed was not for a class. Very few members of the Brotherhood of Engineers would be affected by it. It was for the general interests of the public, and so, apparently, would not receive the support of some hon. members. Mr. Garson mentioned several cases in which the employees of large corporations had signed a petition in support of the bill. Among these was one from the staff of THE GLOBE Printing Company and another from the staff of The Empire. Mr. Garson referred also to the evidence of various witnesses before the Committee that considered the bill last year, which were almost wholly in favor of the general scheme of this bill.

Mr. Hudson, as a member of the Committee that considered the bill this year, objected to the measure, as being unnecessary in its main object and unwise in its detail. One serious defect in it was the provision that would apparently disqualify from service as engineers many who had filled responsible positions in that capacity, inasmuch as many men who were thoroughly competent to manage an engine, would be, perhaps, unable to pass a technical examination.

Hon. Mr. Fraser pointed out that this was a mistake on the part of Mr. Hudson, inasmuch as the bill provided that such men should be permitted to continue with-