

in the Province. The second clause was equally objectionable. The difficulty at which this clause was aimed was very slight and would be made worse by this amendment. If it happened in two or three cases that a young man got on the list before he was twenty-one and was able to take the oath that he was twenty-one when the elections came round, there was no harm done. He would be sorry to see the Manhood Suffrage Act interfered with.

After a few words from Mr. Meredith the bill was withdrawn.

VOTERS' LISTS ACT.

Mr. Meacham again moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Ontario Voter's Lists Act. The bill had a single clause, viz. :—

"Section 14 of the Ontario Voters' Lists Act is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sub-section: An affidavit, delivered to the Judge, signed by any person, in the form, or to the effect set forth in form 'A' appended to the Manhood Suffrage Act, if the facts stated are such as to entitle such person to be placed upon the voters' list, as qualified to be a voter under such Act, shall be sufficient prima facie evidence for placing such person upon said lists, and the affidavit may be made before any Justice of the Peace, Commissioner for taking affidavits or Notary Public, and every such officer shall, upon request, administer an oath to any person wishing to make the affidavit."

Hon. Mr. Fraser said the proposed amendment was a very dangerous one and could not be accepted by the House.

The bill was withdrawn.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Mr. Leys (Toronto) moved the discharge of his bill to amend the Joint Stock Companies Act, and the order was granted.

REGISTRY AND SHERIFFS' FEES.

Mr. French moved the second reading of his bill respecting the above question. The bill had two clauses. The first provided that there should be but one payment of registry fees where one abstract clerk acts for two divisions of any registry office where there are two divisions, as in the case of Toronto. The second clause provided as follows:—

When any city shall have been separated from a county, and a sheriff appointed for the city, double fees shall in no case be charged by both sheriffs in respect of executions, but if it shall be reported by the sheriff of the city that there were executions in the hands of the sheriff of the county at the time of such separation, then the person having searched and paid the fees for a search in the city office, shall have a right to search all executions reported as being in the hands of the sheriff of the county without payment of any additional fee, on producing a receipt from the sheriff of the city that he has been paid for such search, which said sheriff shall be bound to give.

Mr. French discussed his bill at some length, referred to the "iniquity" of the registry division, and said his object was to mitigate the evils arising from that division, seeing the division had now been accomplished. Mr. French referred to the low salaries earned by some of the clerks in the registry office, instancing particularly a copying clerk named Pool, who, according to evidence taken some time ago before Mr. Winchester, was unable to earn more than 18 cents an hour, work as hard as he could. He thought if the Attorney-General had turned his attention to such a point as this there would have been more room for the exercise of his philanthropy than in the division of the office for the benefit of a political campaigner.

The Attorney-General said the first clause of the bill had reference only to Toronto. It was a mistake to think that one abstract clerk did all the work of preparation. That was wrong. There were several clerks. There were comparatively few cases that would come under the operation of the Act. He had ascertained that such a case did not arise more than once a week. If a person was rich enough to have property in both divisions there was no great harm in his paying a slightly increased fee. The machinery proposed by Mr. French was of an impossible character—quite unworkable. Mr. French had condemned the division of the office, though it was well known there was a cry for the division before it was effected. No objection had been taken by hon. gentlemen opposite while one Registrar was receiving the fees that would now be divided between the two Registrars. Now that the salary was divided they objected to it. The division had been very beneficial in its results. All whom he had heard discuss the question had spoken of the marked improvement since the change had taken place.

Mr. French—How are the offices divided—is there a rope between them?

The Attorney-General—I don't hear what my hon. friend says, but I dare say it is something not worth my while answering. (Laughter and applause.) Mr. Mowat showed that the second clause was equally ineffective and unworkable and should not become law.

The bill was then declared lost on a division.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Mr. Ostrom moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Act respecting Joint Stock Companies for supplying cities, towns and villages with gas and water. The single clause of the bill was this :—

(1) Section 72 of the Act respecting Joint Stock Companies for supplying cities, towns and villages with gas and water is repealed, and the following substituted therefor :—

(1) The sum so borrowed shall not exceed the sum of \$30,000 to be expended in gas works, or the like sum for waterworks for an incorporated village; or for a town or city to be expended in gas or waterworks, the sum following:—for a town the sum of \$50,000 for gas works, and \$200,000 for waterworks; and for a city the sum of \$80,000 for gas works, and \$400,000 for waterworks.

Mr. Ostrom explained the bill at some length.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said the bill would have to be referred to a special Committee to be considered before it could become law, and it was too late to do that now, and to secure the information necessary to be laid before the Committee. He asked Mr. Ostrom to withdraw the bill.

After some demur, Mr. Ostrom said he could not resist the winning ways of the Crown Lands Commissioner, and withdrew the measure.

EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN.

Mr. Ingram asked if the Government would give him next day to discuss his bill respecting relations between employers and workmen. The Attorney-General said he could not give up a Government day, and the Crown Lands Commissioner urged Mr. Ingram to go on now. Mr. Meredith objected because it was so late (11.40). Mr. Hardy said the Government was prepared to stay. Mr. Meredith said this was the first time the leader of the House had not paid attention to requests of this kind from members of his side of the House. Finally both the Attorney-General and the Commissioner said they had no objection to the bill being now read a second time, the Attorney-General remarking that he rather liked the principles of the bill so far as he had examined it. The bill was accordingly read the second time and referred to a special Committee which Mr. Ingram named.

The bill in question provides that wages of workmen are to be payable in money only; that an employer shall be liable to a penalty for making any deduction in the wages of an employee; forbids agreements forbidding workmen to join labor organisations, and provides a penalty for an infringement of the preceding section. The last clause provides that the Act shall not apply to domestic servants, or servants in husbandry, or to an agreement by which the workman is to receive his board or board and lodging, or any part of it, in addition to his wages.

FRENCH IN THE SCHOOLS.

Mr. Craig's bill was reached at five minutes before midnight. Mr. Craig asked the Government to give him to-morrow to go on with the bill. One or two members said "Go on." The Attorney-General said he hardly thought it ought to go on. Perhaps it could go on to-morrow (Wednesday) after Government business had been disposed of. Mr. Meredith suggested that the Opposition might discuss the question anyhow whether the Government made any arrangements for it or not; only he hoped the Government would not force the Opposition to do this. The Attorney-General said the Government were as anxious as the Opposition to discuss the question. He would tell Mr. Meredith Wednesday morning what arrangements he would make. It was impossible for him to make any just now. This arrangement satisfied the leader of the Opposition, and the House proceeded with other business.

ROAD COMPANIES.

The following bills were read a second time :—

To amend the General Road Companies Act—Mr. Phelps (moved by Mr. Awrey in the absence of the promoter).

Mr. Armstrong moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Free Grants and Homesteads Act. The bill provides as follows :—

Notwithstanding anything contained in section 22 of the Free Grants and Homesteads Act, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may remit any sums which may be due to the Crown by settlers in respect of the lands mentioned in the said section, under the provisions of any of the Acts mentioned in sub-section 1 of said section, or any regulation made under the authority of the said Acts or any of them.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands doubted the power of a private member to introduce a bill of this exact nature. He had not, however, as yet closely examined into the question. The bill could be read a second time and discussed in Committee. The bill was then read the second time.

INLAND FISHERIES.

Mr. Cruess, in the absence of Mr. Fell, asked the following question :—