

THE LEGISLATURE.

Several Bills Advanced a Stage in the House.

THE MINING LOCATIONS.

New Bills Introduced by the Minister of Education.

Private Bills Committee Hard at Work—Mr.
White Called Upon for Evidence
—From Parry Sound.

In the Legislature yesterday several bills progressed a stage. The House finished the available business early, and a night sitting was not necessary.

Mr. Glendining asked the following question :—

Is it the intention of the Government to take any, and if so what, immediate action respecting the removal of artificial obstructions and the regulation of the waters of Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching at the outlet at Washago at or above low water mark.

Hon. Mr. Fraser replied :—“It is not.”

Applications for Mining Lands.

Mr. Sol. White made his motion asking for a return giving copies of all orders in Council with reference to the withdrawal from sale of mining lands since 1st January, 1890. Also a statement showing who had since that time made application for mining lands, and what disposition was made of the applications, as well as a list of the sales made since January 1st, 1889, with particulars with regard to them. Speaking to his motion he said there seemed to be a necessity of removing the stagnation that had settled upon the mining enterprises of the Province. The causes of the stagnation ought to be sought and remedies applied so that the development of the mining lands would go on more energetically. The report of the mining commission, which had been furnished members, showed that the people of the United States were Ontario's best customers. From 1881 to 1887 they had taken something like \$1,500,000 worth of the Province's product of the mine, while during the same time only about \$4,750,000 worth had gone to all the rest of the world. He thought a comparison might fairly be made between Michigan and Ontario, and it was significant that the yield of the Michigan mines was twelve times that of Ontario's. There was surely some reason for this difference. The cause ought to be sought, he repeated, and the remedy applied. Only one-twelfth of the mineral wealth of Ontario had ever been explored, it seemed. If as was stated Ontario's shipping facilities are good, why were the mines scarcely touched? The report said that the Dominion Government had granted a subsidy of \$3,200 a mile for a railway to Gunflint Lake, 85 miles, and that this Government proposed to build a line to Whitefish Lake. The activity of operations there, he said, removed from speculation the future of that district, and he thought the Government was warranted in giving railway aid to assist in the development of the riches possessed in the mineral lands there. He learned from the report that more than one-half of the capital invested in the mines of the Province was invested by capitalists from the United States, so that they were not only the best customers but also were taking the largest share in the development of the mines. Mr. White concluded without having made very clear the relevancy of the latter part of his speech to the motion he made.