

Mr. Awrey's Bills.

Mr. Awrey has two bills before the House and they show the interest the member for South Wentworth takes in all questions relating to agriculture and the farmers. He has always, since his advent to the House in 1879, been an able and ready champion of measures for the betterment of the position of the farmer, and his espousal of a bill means that there will be brought to its advocacy an ability in debate that goes far to insure its adoption. The bill he introduced yesterday provides that lands which are used as farm lands and lie within the corporation limits of a village, town or city shall be assessed for their value as farming lands only and not as village, town or city property. Another bill of Mr. Awrey's before the house extends to other municipal corporations the power now possessed only by cities to buy land to be set aside for park purposes.

The New Mining Policy.

It will be seen from the notices of motion that Hon. Mr. Hardy has given notice of the bills with respect to mining and mining lands, which were referred to in the speech from the throne as among the important measures of the session. By giving notice now time is saved, and it is to be presumed that shortly after the re-assembling of the House the Commissioner will be ready to announce in the form of bills the mining policy of the Government. There have been many matters to consider in the preparation of the new measures, but it is evident from what he has said in reply to questions and representations that he has mastered the details of the subject. For instance, when the Sudbury deputation waited upon the Government, the commissioner discussed such matters as the location, character and output of the mines of the district with precision and fulness of knowledge equal to that of the delegates themselves. At the same time he has the advantage of a thorough understanding of the mining lands of other countries. The new measures may be expected to embody some valuable ideas, and in the discussion of them members will be given all the light that they can desire.

Easter Recess.

Mr. Meredith's suggestion that the Easter adjournment should be from Thursday to Tuesday has been acted upon. The members have nearly all left town already and most of them departed in time to reach their homes last evening. On the re-assembling of the House on Tuesday the budget debate will be resumed and probably finished the same day. Everything will be in shape for work and the business of the session will probably be put through with good speed.

Courts to Observe Holidays.

Mr. Meredith yesterday brought before the House a bill respecting the sittings of the courts, which provides that Provincial courts shall not sit on public holidays, and that jurors shall not be required, unless sworn upon a jury engaged in the trial of an action which is actually proceeding, to remain in attendance at the court after 6 o'clock in the evening. Respecting this latter clause Mr. Meredith said that courts often sat at unreasonable hours, and it was not fair to the jurors, "nor to anybody else," remarked Mr. Fraser. The bill was read the first time.

Private Bills Committee.

The Private Bills Committee yesterday got through a good deal of work under the guidance and leadership of their indefatigable chairman, Hon. J. M. Gibson. The Cornwall Debt Consolidation Bill was passed. Mr. Mack, who was in charge, had summoned the assistance of Mayor James W. Liddell and the town treasurer, Mr. R. A. Pringle, both able lawyers, who explained matters to the satisfaction of the committee. The bill to enable Joseph A. Brown to register as a member of the College of Pharmacy caused a great deal of discussion. Mr. E. T. Malone was present to oppose the bill on behalf of the college, and Mr. J. A. Proctor advocated the case of Mr. Brown. Evidence was taken on the merits of the case, which a shorthand reporter was employed to take down. an

unusual thing before the Private Bills Committee. After a long discussion and when the fate of the bill seemed to be in grave doubt Mr. Davis, the energetic and able member for North York, who was in charge of it, made a brief but effective speech which manifestly won support. On a vote being taken the bill was sustained. The college will continue to oppose the bill at every stage through the House. The St. Thomas Debt Consolidation bill, St. George's Society bill and the bill to incorporate the Select Knights were passed after brief discussion.

Among the private bills introduced yesterday were the following:—To incorporate the Fort William Water Company, Mr. Conmee; to incorporate the Don & Scarborough Railway Company, Mr. Gilmour; to change the name of West Toronto Junction, Mr. Gilmour; to consolidate the debt of the Town of Essex, Mr. Balfour; to incorporate the Bracebridge & Trading Lake Railway Company, Mr. Marter; bill respecting the Town of Bracebridge, Mr. Marter; to enable the Diocese of Toronto to consolidate and manage its trust funds, Hon. Mr. Hardy; respecting by-law No. 1 of the Town of Gravenhurst, Mr. Marter.

Mr. Stratton's Bills.

A serious and growing evil is squarely met by a bill proposed by Mr. Stratton. It is often the case, particularly in small towns, that individuals are nominated for the Council who have no intention of serving, and who on being elected simply hand in their resignations. This causes annoyance, confusion and delay. Mr. Stratton proposes to so amend the Municipal Act as to prevent the nomination of persons for these offices without their written acceptance of the nomination and expression of willingness to act if elected. Mr. Stratton also proposes to amend the Public Parks Act so as to extend to villages the power possessed by more populous municipalities to buy land for park purposes.

Mr. Sol. White's Race Horse Bill.

Several days ago Mr. Sol. White introduced a bill with the formidable title, "A bill to encourage the breeding and improvement of trotting and pacing horses and for the prevention of fraudulent entries and practices in contests of speed." When the member for North Essex read the title of his bill a smile ran over the House and Mr. Meredith suggested that the Attorney-General second the motion for the bill's introduction. The Speaker seemed to have doubt about the regularity of the bill, and kept the House waiting a few moments while he perused a written draft of it. He put the motion and passed the bill to the clerk, who subsequently returned it to Mr. White as being "irregular." The bill aims to prohibit the entry of a horse, colt or filly under an assumed name or pedigree in any contest for purse or prize which is to be decided by speed. It says that the name of a horse, colt or filly shall not be changed after it has once been entered for a contest unless as provided by the code of rules of the society or association under which the contest is conducted. The public performance of a horse in a previous contest or trial of speed shall determine the class to which it belongs. For offences under the act a fine not less than \$10 nor more than \$100 is provided, or in default imprisonment for six months. The irregularity was that Mr. White had not given notice of the bill. He gave the notice and introduced the bill yesterday, when it was read the first time.