

country had was the band of 8,000 teachers who go out every morning to train a half million children. England would not be the nation she is, he said, if it were not for her learned men and her scientists, and she would not continue to spend so much on higher education if she had not found it profitable. Concluding, he said he hoped the House would remain true to the instincts of the great Province and give munificently not only to the elementary schools but to all that tends to the higher education.

The hon. Minister had roused the torpid House into liveliest interest, and when he sat down there was a rousing round of applause that lasted several moments. When Mr. Ross speaks upon matters relating to his department he evinces a wonderful familiarity of detail, which is the result of his complete mastery of the whole broad question of education. From the elementary branches to University graduation he knows the gamut of his subject. He speaks with the liberalism of the advanced educationist, tempered with the politician's appreciation of public opinion.

Dr. Preston of Leeds moved the adjournment of the debate at 11.30 o'clock.

The Crown Lands Report.

The report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the year 1890 was laid before the House to-day. One of the first matters referred to in it is the discoveries of the



deposits of nickel in the Sudbury region. It says these discoveries "were so extensive as to create a sort of boom, which led to numerous applications to the department for leave to purchase mining lands. By order in Council, dated the 29th November, 1890, the nickel-bearing region was withdrawn from sale or location until further notice." With regard to mineral surveys the report says:—"The General Mining Act requires that applicants to purchase mining lands in unsurveyed territory shall file surveyor's plans, field notes and descriptions by metes and bounds of their locations in the department before any sale is carried out. Under this statutory regulation a number of applicants in the Districts of Algoma, Nipissing, Rainy River and Thunder Bay have filed plans, etc., etc., and an area of upwards of 14,000 acres has been sold and patented to them, for which upwards of \$28,000 has been received." The patents in the Rainy River district covered 7,845 acres and brought \$16,066, while those in the other districts named covered 5,975 acres and amounted to \$11,950.

Crown Lands Sold.

This statement of lands sold, amount of sales and amount of collections for the year is given:—

Service	Acres Sold.	Amount of Sales.	Amount of Coll's
Railway lands.....	9,406	\$18,577	\$11,562
Crown lands.....	50,045	79,847	74,031
Clergy lands.....	780	1,219	6,037
Common School lands.	220	766	11,758
Grammar School lands	534	367	1,538

Total.....60,936 \$100,777 \$104,928

The total collection of the department on account of all sources of revenue was \$1,113,052, made up as follows:—Land collections, \$185,571 13; woods and forests—timber dues \$722,580 14, ground rent \$58,096, bonus \$135,479 53—\$916,155 67; casual and other fees, \$1,193 18; expenditure refunds, \$10,132 31; total, \$1,113,052 29.

The total disbursements of the department for the year amount to \$290,953.

Woods and Forests.

The total collections for the year for woods and forests amounted to \$916,155 67, which includes \$135,479 53 on account of bonuses, leaving the revenue from timber dues, ground rent, etc., to be \$780,676 14. "The revenue from woods and forests," the report says, "is somewhat below the estimate, which is accounted for by the collapse in the square and waney board timber trade, there being very little demand for this class of timber during the past year. While, therefore, the quantity of timber estimated was got out, it was unsaleable, is still in the hands of the producers and the dues remain unpaid. There was also a depression in the sawed lumber trade during part of the season, and this, together with the financial stringency which pre-

vailed later on, made collections somewhat slow. The reduction of the import duty upon sawn lumber going into the United States from \$2 to \$1 per thousand feet board measure came too late in the year to have very much effect on last season's business, although there was a stiffening towards the close of the year, due, no doubt, to the reduction in question. The quantity of timber being got out this year is very small, and there is also a reduction in the output of logs. It is reasonable, therefore, to expect for the coming season a fair business at remunerative prices, and that the reduction of the American import duty will enlarge our market to some extent—more particularly for the coarser grades of lumber.

"In order to enable those owning mills in the northwest part of the Province to obtain supplies of timber, in harmony with the policy prevailing in other parts, it was determined to hold a sale of a limited area of timber berths as soon as the necessary surveys and explorations could be completed. With this object in view, an adequate staff was placed in the field, and the necessary information was obtained to warrant the holding of a timber sale on the 1st of October last. There was a large attendance at the sale, and fair prices were realised. Four hundred and eighty-five miles were offered, all of which, except 18½ miles, were in the territory west of Thunder Bay. Three hundred and forty-three and three-quarter miles were knocked down on the day of sale for \$321,956 25, and 33 miles were sold subsequently at the upset price, realising \$24,300, making a total mileage sold of 376¾, realising \$346,256 25, or an average of \$919 06 per mile bonus for the mere right to obtain license. There has been paid on account \$110,729 53, leaving outstanding \$235,526 72."

The report says the fire-ranging service continues to give satisfaction and is more largely taken advantage of from year to year. There were no fires during the past year. There were 83 rangers on duty during the dangerous part of the season, and the total cost of the service was \$17,525 43, one-half of which is refundable by the licensees. The reports received from fishery overseers and others, the Minister says, lead him to believe the law was fairly well observed. The revenue from permits was \$441. Under the amendment to the game law which requires foreigners to take out permits to hunt deer, nineteen permits were issued, the revenue from which amounted to \$190. Under the head of free grants the report says that last year there were 153 townships open for settlement, and during this year the Township of Cavendish has been added. During the year just closed 610 locations were made on 83,273 acres of land, and 53 locatees purchased 2,345 acres; 456 patents were issued to locatees.

Colonisation Roads.

The work done on colonisation roads during the year was as follows:—Miles of new road constructed, 180; miles of road repaired, 400; bridges erected, 30; bridges repaired, 12. The work done was carefully inspected and reported to be of a satisfactory and substantial character. The total expenditure was \$127,577 60, of which certain items amounting to \$2,770 20 were refunded, leaving the net departmental expenditure to be \$124,807 40. The work of the department, as the report points out, is rapidly growing, owing to the greatly increased area over which control and supervision are now exercised. The region formerly known as the disputed territory has practically doubled the area to be administered by this department, the affairs of which, as to the adjustment of disputes, issuing of titles, supervision of timber resources, explorations and surveys, construction of colonisation roads and bridges, etc., entail enormous labor and require careful attention, and the work in this connection may be said to be in its infancy. By the amendment of last session to the Timber Slide Companies Act, the supervision and control of all companies in existence or being formed, with the object of facilitating the transmission of timber

down the rivers and streams of the Province, was transferred from the Department of Public Works to this department, and added materially to its responsibilities and work. The Cullers Act of last session, with the administration of which this department is also charged, gave rise to a good deal of correspondence during the year. Perhaps the best indication of the volume of work is afforded by the correspondence of the department, which aggregated last year some 39,000 letters received and answered, containing some 34,000 enclosures. The actual increase over the previous year was in letters and enclosures nearly 3,500.

To-day's Bills.

A bill by Mr. Sharpe, introduced this afternoon, amends the act incorporating the Parry Sound Colonisation Railway Company so that the company may enter into arrangements with the Canada Atlantic Railway Company and the Ottawa & Parry Sound Railway Company in the same manner as with respect to the Northern & Pacific Junction Railway Company.

A bill introduced by Dr. Gilmour is to change the name of the Weston, High Park & Toronto Street Railway Company to the City & Suburban Electric Railway Company. The bill gives to the new company certain powers to produce electricity for the motive power of said railway.

The bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Gibson is to amend the Insurance Act so that insurance companies may insert in their policies a provision that will relieve them from liability where a fire is caused by a steam threshing machine which has been stationed within 100 feet of a barn or stack. The bill also provides for the appointment of Provincial coroners, who shall each be both a coroner and a justice of the peace, for every county and part of Ontario, for the holding of investigations into the causes of fires.

Mr. Guthrie's bill to amend the Assessment Act deals with a matter of considerable importance—that of the exemption from taxation of farm stock and implements. Under the present law, passed in 1888, all a farmer's live stock, no matter how valuable, is exempt, but his implements are liable to taxation. This has been complained of in some

cases as an excessive exemption, and as unequal and unfair to many farmers as well as to other taxpayers. This bill proposes that there should be a substantial but not an excessive exemption granted on both live stock and implements, and that it should be up to a fixed amount, say in all \$1,000. The principle of partial exemption is already recognised in our assessment law. Incomes up to a certain amount are exempt. There are also other instances. The second feature of the bill is a provision to render non-resident taxpayers liable to the same percentage for failure to pay taxes by the lawful time as residents are liable to pay. At present non-residents escape liability for this burden while residents have to bear it.

Mr. Tait this afternoon introduced a bill to authorise the Supreme Court of Judicature for Ontario to admit Mr. G. M. Gardner of Toronto to practise in said court as a solicitor upon his passing the examination prescribed by the Law Society for the admission of solicitors.

The Toronto City Bill.

The City of Toronto bill, as it finally passed the Legislative Committee of the City Council, was presented this afternoon. In the absence of Mr. E. F. Clarke, Mr. Tait presented the bill.

Private Bills Committee.

In the Private Bills Committee this morning there was an interesting discussion over the bill to extend the charter of the Weston Road Company, which is about to expire by effluxion of time. The discussion of the bill had been put off from the day it was first brought up in order that local opponents of the measure and the promoters of

