

southwest counties than that of drainage. He hoped there would be no further changes of the law until it was thoroughly overhauled. He hoped the whole question would be dealt with by the Government. The present system was so expensive that the people were almost afraid of going into drainage because they never knew what it was going to cost. There was the heavy bill of the arbitrators, \$100 a day perhaps, counsels' fees, appeal from arbitrators to judge and from one court to another. He had in his mind a case where the costs arising out of a ditch which cost from \$2,000 to \$2,500 had been almost the same amount. At the last session there had been promises that the Government were considering the whole question and would bring in a bill dealing with it. He favored the suggestion of a commission, but did not think there should be any delay about doing away with the expensive system of arbitration.

Mr. C. Mackenzie endorsed the idea of a commission and urged upon the House the importance of the matter to the people of the west. Mr. Wood of Hastings, too, spoke briefly in favor of the appointment of a commission.

The Attorney-General said the matter had been under consideration by the Government. The member for South Essex had repeatedly brought the question to the attention of the Government and had spoken clearly upon it, as he always did upon any subject he took up. During recess, the Attorney-General told the House, a commission would be issued to make report upon the questions as suggested by both sides of the House. His friend from South Essex had suggested a substitution for the expensive and dilatory method of arbitration. He had been waited upon by a deputation of legal gentlemen from Chatham with regard to this, and had drafted a bill which would probably be introduced this session.

Mr. Waters did not see much hope of getting his bill any farther, and he moved that the order be discharged, while remarking that he did not see that the bill could do harm and it would do good.

Hon. Mr. Hardy did not wish the members to carry away the impression that the appointment of a commission would solve the difficulties surrounding the drainage system. He said the difficulties were inherent; it would be impossible by any bill to remove all the dissatisfaction which now arises out of the working of the present law.

The order was discharged.

#### Mr. Dack's Bills.

The next order was the second reading of Mr. Dack's bill to amend the Public Health Act, so that offences under it may be tried by one justice of the peace. When Mr. Meredith asked the Government if they had considered the bill Mr. Hardy replied that it might go before the Legal Committee without committing the House.

Mr. Dack's bill to amend the Masters and Servants Act came up for second reading. The hon. member explained that it was to allow a servant who had a judgment for wages against a master to proceed to collect sooner than the 21 days which according to the law he must now let elapse after obtaining judgment. Mr. Dack said he would like to see the law that the judgment be paid forthwith, but he had put into his bill five days.

The Attorney-General remarked that the act allows four days for an appeal from the judgment, and that would interfere with making it payable forthwith. He suggested that the bill go to committee, and it was given its second reading.

Mr. Whitney had two bills dealing with drainage, but in view of the discussion which had arisen over Mr. Waters' bill he gracefully resigned himself to the discharge of the orders, remarking with quiet humor that he would peacefully go down with his little ship without doing any harm, although, as he bethought himself, he believed his bills were good and needful.

Mr. Meredith asked if the Government could tell him what would be gone on with to-

morrow, and the Attorney-General answered that he might assume that Hon. Mr. Ross' legislation with regard to education would be taken up.

The House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

#### Bills Introduced.

Mr. Meredith introduced a bill to amend the Judicature Act so as to provide that in an action to recover damages or other compensation for bodily injuries the judge of the court in which the action is pending or any other person chosen by consent of the parties may order that the person injured shall be examined by a duly qualified medical practitioner. As the act stands a plaintiff cannot be compelled to submit to a medical examination.

The bill to amend the special act under which the municipality of Neebing (which is a union of six townships) is formed was given its first reading to-day. It consolidates and amends the act so as to bring it more in harmony with the powers granted by the Municipal Act. The reeve of Neebing, Mr. John McKellar, was about the House to-day. One of the municipality disabilities, he says, is that it has not the machinery to grant a bonus, while authorised so to do by its special act. *le onnel*

The law regulating traction engines on public highways is extended in its operation by a bill introduced by Dr. Sprague to-day. The law now declares that a messenger shall go before every traction engine while it is traversing a public highway in any city, town or village. He shall go at least 15 rods and not more than 30 rods in advance, carrying a red flag by day and a red light by night. Dr. Sprague's bill extends the act to make these precautions necessary on every public highway in townships and counties.

Mr. G. B. Smith to-day introduced a bill to amend the law respecting assignments made by insolvent persons. It provides that all gifts and conveyances made by any person who is in insolvent circumstances or who knows he is insolvent, no matter with what intent the gifts may be made, if they affect the preferment of any creditor, shall not be valid.

Mr. Conmee's bill for the establishment of mining schools, which was introduced in the House as an amendment to the Municipal Act, made its appearance to-day as an act of itself.

#### Notices of Motion.

Mr. Conmee—Inquiry of Ministry—Is the Government aware that there are settlers in the Rainy River district who took their lands upon representations made by and under regulations of the Dominion Government by which such settlers were to obtain grants of two hundred acres? Is it the intention of the Government to grant such settlers the two-hundred-acre lots they then located, and will the Government amend the Rainy River Act this session if necessary, so that such grants can be made?

Mr. Meredith—Wednesday next—Bill to amend the Judicature Act.

Mr. H. E. Clarke (Toronto)—Order for a return by the registrars of East and West Toronto showing:—(1) The total amount of fees earned during the year 1890; (2) the amount paid to the City of Toronto or to Government for the city; (3) the amount of remuneration paid the deputy registrar; (4) the amount paid other assistants and clerks; (5) amount paid other purposes; (6) The average rate paid for copying per folio where payment was made in that way; (7) the number of working days in which the registrar worked full time (six hours) in fulfilment of the duties of his office; (8) the number of working days in which the registrar worked in his office half-time (three hours) or less; (9) the number of days the registrar was absent from his duties altogether, and the cause of such absence; (10) the total amount received by the registrar for his personal use; (11) the costs to which the City of Toronto has been put to complete the divisions of the registry office; (12) the loss to the city in fees by reason of such division.

Mr. Conmee—Bill to amend the General Road Co.'s Act.

Mr. Dack—Inquiry—Whether it is the intention of the Government during the forthcoming recess to take any steps for the consolidation of the Municipal Act and the Assessment Act?