

The Evening Session.

After recess third readings were given two bills of Hon. Mr. Bronson—one respecting the Church of St. John the Evangelist at Ottawa, the other to amend the act incorporating the College of Ottawa.

On a motion by Hon. Mr. Harcourt that the House should go into committee tomorrow on four resolutions he submitted, Mr. Meredith brought to the attention of the House the claims of the County of Grey upon the land improvement fund. The hon. Treasurer replied that tomorrow in the House he expected to devote several minutes to sketch the history of that fund, with special reference to the five counties in which the lands were mostly set apart.

The Hon. Mr. Harcourt's resolutions, which will be taken up tomorrow, declare that there shall be paid out of the consolidated revenue fund of the Province to the municipalities entitled thereto the sum of \$53,704, being the proportion which may be chargeable to the Province of Ontario with respect to the Upper Canada improvement fund. Each municipality shall receive that portion of the said amount which was obtained from the lands sold within the limits of said municipality. They arrange how the amounts shall be apportioned where two municipalities put in claims.

The House has been working industriously these two weeks or more, but next week it will strike a still more rapid gait. A motion made by the Attorney-General tonight, and which the House adopted, says:—

That Government orders may be taken on Mondays, after other orders of the day are disposed of, and that Government orders shall have precedence thereafter, on every day, over all other business except private bills, commencing on Monday, the 20th instant.

The House went into Committee of Supply. The first item taken up was \$49,990 for the School of Practical Science, Toronto. Hon. Mr. Ross explained the details of the vote, the largest part of which is for general equipment of the engineering laboratory, \$16,900. The correction of an error of \$10,000 in the amount of the vote which had crept into print caused a reduction to \$39,990. There was a short discussion in connection with the work of the school and the committee passed to the vote for agriculture of \$145,688.

The Vote for Agriculture.

It is flattering to the Minister of Agriculture that whenever he rises in the House members of the Opposition cannot refrain from references to the part he took in the recent Dominion elections. The Minister's report has been delayed by the printers, and not having been presented to the House Opposition members made a good-humored show of objecting to going on with the estimates for agriculture until the report was brought down. Mr. Meredith smilingly consented to the committee going on with agriculture if the hon. Minister would express regret at the weeks he spent in the Dominion elections. Hon. Mr. Dryden laughingly declined, but the vote was taken up.

The first hesitation was over the item of \$400 for the Ontario Experimental Union. The Minister explained that this was an

association whose members, scattered over the Province, conducted experiments in growing grain and roots so that farmers may be informed of results obtained under the varying climates and soils of the different parts of the Province. Dr. Preston and Mr. Clancy made speeches objecting to the association, the former declaring that it meant simply a distribution of money which had the effect of adding to the number of the department's paid officials, Mr. Clancy thought the union was of little value. Mr. Dryden explained that the money was not paid out to individuals, the experiments were voluntary and the money was for the publication and distribution of the experiments. The hon. Minister got through the House the following new amounts or increases to various associations:—Western Dairymen's Association, \$500 (new); Dominion Sheep-Breeders' Association, increase to \$300 and for the same Breeders' Association \$300 (new); Ontario Experimental Union, increase to \$400; Ontario Poultry Association, increase to \$1,300; Beekeepers' Association, increase, to \$1,100. The Opposition asked a great number of questions, but by a quarter to 11 o'clock all the votes for agriculture had been passed and the committee rose.

Before the adjournment Dr. McKay (Oxford) introduced a bill to amend the Ontario Medical Act. It provides for raising the medical matriculation; for better machinery for the collection of the annual fees of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. It places medical men in the matter of professional fees in courts on an equal footing with veterinary surgeons and architects. A clause gives to the council of the college the power to summon witnesses to attend a committee of investigation. The bill, contrary to expectation, does not deal with the suppression of faith cure doctors and other unlicensed healers.

Stationary Engineers.

The special committee to which was referred Mr. Tait's bill with regard to stationary engineers met at 11 o'clock this morning in the library, Mr. Tait presiding. The hon. Provincial Secretary, although not on the committee, was interested in the matter and attended the meeting. For the Stationary Engineers' Association there were present Messrs. John A. Wills, A. M. Wickens, A. E. Edkins of Toronto, and R. Mackie and D. Roberts of Hamilton. Messrs. Wills and Wickens made out a good case in their speeches, but the committee, reflecting the feeling in the House, discouraged all hope of giving the engineers the power to compel all engineers to take out certificates of fitness, but Hon. Mr. Gibson suggested that the engineers content themselves with an act that will grant them the power to issue certificates, as the architects, chartered accountants and other similar organisations. These certificates, he said, would come to be recognised, and the permission to issue these diplomas was all that the Legislature was likely to grant. The clause of the act providing for the inspection of stationary engines and boilers was favored by several members of the committee. Mr. Rayside, member for Glengarry, was opposed to the whole bill and seemed unfriendly to all legislation such as that sought by the engineers. He caused some merriment by telling how the only engineer he had who knew anything about running a boiler came near to blowing up his establishment. The hon. member said he had always taught the men who came to tend his boilers when the water got low to rake out the fire. But the "scientific chap" when the water got low knew how to get it, and the result was that the end of the boiler was blown out. The engineers were disposed to accept Mr. Gibson's suggestion, and the committee rose to meet again a week from to-day.

Notes.

Among the visitors at the Legislature today was Mr. James Somerville, M.P., North Brant. Mr. Somerville was invited to a seat on the floor of the House as a distinguished guest, but he availed himself of his privilege as a newspaper man to sit in the reporters' gallery, where he was made welcome.

Mr. Wood, M.P., Brockville, Deputy Speaker, was a visitor at the Legislature to-day.

Mr. James A. Macpherson, mayor of Kincardine, had a seat on the floor of the House to-day. He, in company with Major Scott of the 32nd Regiment, is on his way to Ottawa on corporation business.

The bicyclists have not, it seems, altogether withdrawn their opposition to Mr. Davis' bill with regard to bicycles. The, to them, most offensive clause, which required the carrying of lamps at night, is dropped, but the wheelmen do not want any legislation in the direction of the bill. The deputation of the association who waited upon Mr. Davis did not suggest any amendment to the objectionable clause; they do not want any such legislation.

A bill introduced by Mr. Baxter for Mr. Guthrie is to amend the Municipal Act to give Township Councils authority to pass a by-law to appoint valuers to take the value of all the property in their township.

Mr. C. W. Colter, ex-M.P. for Haldimand, occupied a place in the ladies' gallery to-day.

Mr. James McMullen, M.P. for North Wellington, was a visitor at the legislative halls to-day.