

THE LEGISLATURE.

Hard at Work and Making Good Progress.

THE INSURANCE CONDITIONS

Discussing the Grants to Hospitals and Charities.

Colonisation Roads Expenditure—Settlement of Drainage Disputes—Supplies For Public Institutions.

TORONTO, April 21.

The Legislature had only been in session this afternoon ten minutes when the members were called in for a division. After the Attorney-General had introduced four bills the orders of the day were reached. The first order was the second reading of Mr. Meredith's bill with respect to the sittings of courts on public holidays. Mr. Meredith said that if the House would acknowledge the principle of the bill by giving it a second reading he would withdraw it. The Attorney-General objected, and Mr. Meredith declared he would take a vote upon it. Mr. O'Connor, when he saw there would be a division, told the House that were he not paired he would vote for the second reading of the bill.

The House was divided, with the result that the motion was defeated by a vote of 45 to 35. Messrs. Biggar, Paton and Guthrie voted with the yeas.

The Division List.

YEAS.—Barr, Biggar, Bush, Campbell (Algonia), Campbell (Durham), Clancy, Clarke, H. E. (Toronto), Dunlop, Fell, Glendinning, Godwin, Guthrie, Hammell, Hiscott, Kerns, McColl, McLonaghan, Magwood, Marter, Meacham, Meredith, Metcalfe, Miscampbell, Monk, Paton, Preston, Reid, Rorke, Smith (Frontenac), Tooley, White, Whitney, Wilmoughby, Wood (Hastings), Wylie—35.

NAYS.—Allan, Awrey, Balfour, Baxter, Bishop, Blezard, Bronson, Caldwell, Carpenter, Charlton, Chisholm, Clarke (Wellington), Connee, Dack, Davis, Dowling, Dryden, Evan-turel, Ferguson, Field, Fraser, Garrow, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Gilmour, Harcourt, Hardy, Lockhart, Loughrin, McKay (Oxford), McKay (Victoria), McKechnie, McKenzie, H., McMahon, Mack, Mackenzie, C., Moore, Mowat, Porter, Robillard, Ross, Sharpe, Smith (York), Snider, Sprague, Stratton, Tait, Waters, Wood (Brant)—49.

Mr. Fell, who had voted yesterday in favor of Mr. Whitney's bill, asked permission to have his vote erased. He had been paired with Mr. Stratton until 9 o'clock. He had forgotten it when at 6 o'clock the vote was taken. He apologised to the member for West Peterboro'.

The debate on the bill of Mr. Meredith extending to certain other companies incorporated by Federal legislation or by other Provinces, or under the Ontario Joint Stock Letters Patent Act, the powers now conferred only upon trust companies, was resumed. Mr. Meredith spoke in its support, expressing surprise that it should have been opposed by the Attorney-General, and declaring that opposition to be an unjust and arbitrary restriction of the companies to whom it was sought to extend the powers of trustees, etc. The Attorney-General's argument had appeared as if he intended to defeat the bill and then had looked about for reasons.

Mr. Mowat denied with feeling that he had had any intention in studying the bill except the general interest. He went on to meet the arguments advanced by Mr. Meredith. To an interjection by the Opposition leader that the Legislature of Manitoba had adopted a bill like his, he replied that he was not discussing the legislation of the Manitoba Legislature; he knew that some of it was not good. He concluded his observations by saying that if the bill be reported without the first clause there was no objection to its going to the committee.

The bill was given its second reading and sent to the Legal Committee.

The Word "Precontract."

On the motion for the third reading of the bill to amend the act respecting the solemnisation of marriages, Mr. Meredith made a motion to have the bill read, that the word "precontract" be struck out of the affidavits instead of leaving the clause permissive. When the Attorney-General explained that it was left permissive because there were in the county a large number of blank forms of affidavits containing the word, but that in all future forms issued by the Government the words "previous marriage" should be substituted for "precontract," he withdrew it and the bill went into law.

Mr. Meredith raised an objection to the third reading of the bill dividing the Township of Tilbury West into two townships. He understood that the division was because of difficulties between the French and English speaking people, and he deprecated the recognition of racial differences by such legislation.

Hon. J. M. Gibson pointed out that the township was a very large and populous one, that a very good case had been made out by the promoters of the bill, and that the reasons stated by Mr. Meredith were not the sole reasons.

Mr. Sol. White spoke along the same line as the Provincial Secretary.

The bill was read the third time.

On Hon. Mr. Dryden's bill to amend the Public Health Act there arose a somewhat lengthy discussion. The hon. Minister, in moving its second reading, explained its provisions. The main clause gives the Provincial Board of Health, subject to appeal to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, the control of the water supply of towns and cities about to put in water mains for domestic purposes. It provides that a public health officer shall take action when aware of disease in animals, meat or milk. Mr. Dryden explained that municipalities are by the present law required to forward samples of water to the Provincial Board of Health, but that the law in that respect is inoperative.

Messrs. Meredith, Preston, Clancy, Wood (Hastings) and Whitney opposed the bill in short speeches. They were not in favor of giving to the Provincial Board of Health the large power proposed by the bill. They were inclined to think the municipalities were as desirous of consulting the public health as was the Provincial Board of Health. The appeal to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council was not a satisfactory safeguard.

After the Attorney-General had remarked upon the need of dealing with the matters dealt with by the bill, the motion for its second reading was adopted.

The Attorney-General's bill respecting the settlement by arbitration of accounts between the Dominion of Canada and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec and between the said two Provinces was read a second time.

As Ministers and Guardians.

The Attorney-General moved the second reading of the bill respecting the sale of real estate by executors and administrators. Mr. Meredith suggested certain changes, and was followed by Mr. Guthrie. The hon. member for South Wellington does not often address the House, but when he does he is clear and concise in the expression of his views. The opinions of no member of the House receive more attention from the House than those of South Wellington's representative. And in committees he renders very useful service to the Province, and when occasions arise to his constituency. He expressed the hope that the clause of the bill requiring administrators to obtain the consent of official guardians for the sale of lands would be struck out. The retention of the clause was costly, and he proceeded to show reasons why in his opinion it was undesirable that it be retained in the new law.

Mr. Whitney supported Mr. Guthrie's opinion, but the Attorney-General thought it was necessary in some cases as a check upon administrators to secure the estate.

The bill was read the second time.

Hon. Mr. Gibson moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Ontario Insurance Act. The discussion continued until 6 o'clock. The Provincial Secretary in explaining the provisions of the act made a strong speech in its favor. Its main feature is that it allows insurance companies to put in their policies a provision that if a fire occurs because a steam threshing engine is placed within 100 feet of the barn or stock burned the company shall not be liable for damages in connection with the fire. It was manifest that there was a strong feeling in the House against the bill, because it was believed to be against the interest of the farmers. Mr. Gibson stated the arguments for and against the bill, and was of the opinion that this was not in his opinion an unreasonable thing that the insurance companies had been for two or three years asking for.

Mr. Awrey replied to Mr. Gibson. He remarked that he admired the candor of the Provincial Secretary when he said the agitation for this measure had come entirely from the insurance companies. If the Provincial Secretary had succeeded in making out a case, in showing that the farmers would not be adversely affected by the bill, there was another class to which he might have given attention. These were the threshers. Mr. Gibson had explained to the House that where there might be difficulty in removing an engine 100 feet away from a barn in a straight line, an invention called a "jack" allowed the power to be carried by belts at an angle or even around a corner. This was therefore the reason for Mr. Awrey's remark that the bill should be entitled an act in the interest of insurance companies and the manufacture of "jacks." He calculated that there were 2,000 or 3,000 threshing machines in Ontario, that the "jacks" cost \$70 each, so that if the bill became law it might mean \$140,000 or \$150,000 of an expenditure to the