

THE LEGISLATURE.

Proposed Control of Towns' Water Supply.

INSURANCE ACT AMENDMENT

The Threshing Engines Clause Will be Withdrawn.

In Committee on the Act Consolidating and Revising the Public School Laws—The Lumbermen's Lien Act.

TORONTO, April 24.

The Legislature is clearing the order paper with all the expedition it may. To-day was spent in committee of the whole. The first Friday evening sitting of the session was held, and the promise of morning sittings next week, commencing with Tuesday, is indication of the seriousness of the intention of the Government to wind up the business as early as can be next week. This afternoon the debate on the amendment to the Insurance Act which Hon. J. M. Gibson proposed was taken up again; Hon. Mr. Hardy's Lumbermen's Lien Bill was also considered, and the remainder of the sitting was consumed by a discussion of Hon. John Dryden's bill amending the Public Health Act. After 6 o'clock recess the spirit of criticism which had stirred the Opposition before dinner had subsided and the evening was a beautiful exhibition of amity. Hon. Mr. Ross' bill consolidating and revising the Public School law was put through committee, the two sides like brethren working together in harmony.

The Insurance Amendment.

Mr. Gibson resumed the debate on the motion for the second reading of the bill to amend the Ontario Insurance Act. He explained that it had been decided to withdraw the clause under which it would have been provided that a steam engine used for threshing purposes must not be within 100 feet of the barn or stack. He proposed to the House to send the bill to the committee on the understanding that in committee the clause would be withdrawn. He spoke in support of the other clauses which give authority for the appointment of Provincial coroners to investigate the cause of fires in certain cases.

Mr. Meredith opposed the bill on the ground that no reasons had been given to show that the appointment of these coroners was necessary, and there were reasons to believe that the system would be abused. Under this system the number of investigations of a vexatious character, already considerable, would be increased.

The bill was read the second time.

Business of the Session.

Mr. Mowat moved a resolution to the effect that beginning with Tuesday next the House have morning sittings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mr. Meredith wanted to know before the question was put whether there were to be other important matters coming before the House, of which no intimation had yet been given. He referred specially to railway bonuses and to the question of Provincial subsidies, remarking that he had tried to get some statement from the Attorney-General respecting it, but that gentleman was reticent on the subject. "I am not aware," replied Mr. Mowat, "that I was reticent on the subject. I stated, I think, that there had been no communication on the subject with the Government since the Quebec conference, and I say now that it is not the intention of the Government to bring in a measure on that subject this session. With regard to railway matters, probably I shall be in a position to announce on Monday what we will do and what we will not do." Mr. Meredith found fault with the practice always pursued of bringing down the railway bonuses late in the session. The resolution was passed.

The Parliament Buildings.

On motion of Mr. Fraser a resolution was passed in committee adding \$150,000 to the appropriation for the Parliament buildings, making the total appropriation \$1,200,000. "Better make it \$2,500,000 at once," said Mr. Meredith, but the Commissioner of Public Works did not take the advice.

Third Readings.

The following bills were read the third time:—

To amend the act to incorporate the Nichols Hospital Trust—Mr. Stratton.

To incorporate the Mimico Switch Line Railway Company—Mr. Gilmour.

To amend the act respecting dentistry—Mr. Ross.