

**Government Measures.**

The following Government bills were passed in committee of the whole:—

For the removal of certain cases from a County Court to a high court—The Attorney-General.

To amend the law as to barristers and solicitors in certain cases—The Attorney-General.

Bill relating to railways—Mr. Fraser.

The committee adopted a resolution providing for a salary to a referee under the drainage laws.

**Liability of Directors.**

There was an animated discussion over Mr. Gibson's (Hamilton) bill respecting the liability of directors. This bill incorporates in the Provincial statutes the principles of a measure recently adopted in England and intended to prevent the use of names of persons in whom the public have confidence as a means of defrauding the public through joint stock companies. Directors under this bill are made responsible for incorrect statements made in the prospectuses of their companies, unless they are able to prove that they believed and had reasonable ground for believing the statements in question. Mr. Meredith urged very strongly the grievances which would arise in the case of certain companies. He chose insurance companies as furnishing the strongest instance in support of his contention. It was impossible for the directors of a company—say a mutual insurance company—to investigate personally the truth of every statement made to induce people to take the policy of that company rather than another. The effect of the bill would be to drive good men out of the position of such directors. Mr. Wood and Mr.

Kerns took much the same view. On the other hand, Mr. Gibson thought it would not be a bad thing to tone up directors as to their responsibilities. He supposed, he said, there were many members of the House who had acted as directors of companies while giving only the merest passing attention to the companies' affairs. He confessed himself a sinner in this respect. He admitted that some reason might be found for making special provision for the classes of cases mentioned by Mr. Meredith, and said that if a clause could be devised to meet the case he would probably introduce it at a later stage. The bill was passed by the committee.

**Lumbermen's Wages.**

Mr. Hardy's bills respecting lions for labor on logs and timber and the payment of wages thereon brought on a discussion taken part in by most of the lumbermen in the House, by some of the lawyers and by others as well. The bill, as its name indicates, is intended to secure the payment of lumbermen's wages, and one of the difficulties—perhaps the principal one—it is intended to meet is that unscrupulous foreign employers sometimes run their logs over to the American side leaving the lumbermen without any means of recovering payment for his labor in getting the timber out. The subject is a difficult one to handle, and the fact that the bill went through committee with so little complaint or criticism is in itself testimony to the care and judgment shown by Mr. Hardy in drafting the bill, and constructing the complex legal machinery for carrying out the object sought. The bill applies only to Algoma, Thunder Bay and Rainy River districts, and Mr. Miscampbell wanted it to apply to the French River district, and Mr. Balfour and Mr. White urged that it should be extended to the County of Essex, of which they are the representatives. Mr. Loughrin of Nipissing spoke for the first time. This is a subject with which he is acquainted, as he is one of the leading men in his district connected with the lumber trade. He would have been glad, he said, to see the act extended to his district. It was pointed out by Mr. Bronson, speaking of the Ottawa region, that it would be unfair to extend the provisions of the bill at this time to districts which had had no notice of it and no opportunity to express their views concerning the details of the measure. At the same time he declared that he did not know of a case in which a man had failed to get his pay for work done, and there would be no objection from the lumbermen of the Ottawa region to a well-considered bill of this kind.

After some further discussion the committee rose and reported progress. The bill will be further considered as to certain of its details.

**Public Health Act.**

Mr. Meredith grew quite warm in his opposition to Mr. Dryden's bill to amend the Public Health Act. One clause gives the Provincial Board of Health power, where a municipal system of waterworks is to be established, to insist upon the best practicable system being adopted. This is intended to prevent Municipal Councils from using sources of supply which are tainted or likely to become so. Mr. Meredith contended that this was too great a power to give to the board and one that was likely to be abused. "Trust the people" fairly summarises his contention. In reply Mr. Mowat pointed out that there was no power granted under the law but might be abused, and contended that this matter of water supply was of concern not to the particular municipality interested but to the surrounding country, and in fact, as a matter of public health, to the whole Province. Mr. Dryden also reasoned with the Opposition leader in his customary calm and convincing style, but Mr. Meredith would not be satisfied. Dr. Baxter, the Haldimand veteran, also presented strong arguments for the bill but without effect. The clause was passed.

It is not often that Mr. Meredith attempts a joke although he is one of the most genial men in the House. But in a quiet fashion he "put up a job" on Mr. Awrey, chairman of the committee, as concerning the next clause. "Will you read that clause, Mr. Chairman, please?" he asked. Mr. Awrey read to the effect that when a medical health officer discovers that any animal, meat or milk was diseased or affected "with the disease known as weas, clyers—" "The member for London will please read the remainder," the chairman said. This is how the clause went on, "actinomyces or osteosarcoma, he may take action," etc. The clause was passed.

When 6 o'clock came and the House rose for recess the bill was still under consideration.

**The Evening Session.**

The House sat promptly at 7.30 o'clock with only 30 members, ten more than a quorum, in their places. It went into committee on Mr. Tait's bill to incorporate the Niagara River Railway Company, and reported it. Hon. Mr. Dryden's Public Health Act amendment was also passed through committee without further discussion. Hon. ~~A. M.~~ Ross' bill to amend and consolidate the Public School laws consumed the time of the whole night in committee of the whole House. Its 213 clauses were disposed of with scarcely a check to the rapidity of their passage. Members on both sides united to make the provisions of the bill as nearly perfect as possible. The hon. Minister was inexhaustible in the information which he brought to the consideration of his measure, and the passage of his important legislation was conducted with tact and amenity. With respect to the purpose of the amendments or additions proposed the mind of the hon. Minister was made up, but in their details he accepted readily suggestions which seemed to make them clearer. Many of the suggestions were set down for future consideration. They were so withdrawn from immediate discussion and the march of the bill was continued.

The first discussion which arose—and it was only a 15-minute stoppage—was with regard to the proposal of the bill that Township Councils shall levy a tax over their whole municipality from which \$100 shall be paid to every school in the township which has kept open during the year, and \$50 to ever assistant teacher. The purpose of the clause is to help the poorer school sections. It is in the direction in which the opinion of the House has set. Some of the members want the change to be still more radical, that counties shall be required to levy a school rate and divide the money so raised. This was, in the view of the Minister, too long a step to take, but the suggestion that the amount to be distributed to the schools be increased he told the committee might be adopted.

The clause limiting the area of third-class certificates to the counties in which they are issued was talked over. Several members of the committee expressed the belief that this would be a serious hardship to the holders of such certificates. The Minister said he did not want to limit the usefulness of the third-class teacher, but had tried to limit his mischief. However, he had no wish to put him at the mercy of the inspectors or put any severe hardship upon him. He

promised to take the matter into his consideration. The review of the bill was concluded at 12 o'clock.

The committee rose and reported the bill as amended. The House adjourned.

**Land Improvement Fund.**

The following statement gives the amounts payable to the several municipalities on account of Crown lands collections, subject to "the land improvement funds," between 6th March, 1861, and July 1st, 1867 (Ontario's share)—

County.	Township.	Principal payable.
Bruce.....	Brant.....	\$68 01
".....	Carrick.....	4,858 91
".....	Culross.....	3,596 47
".....	Greenock.....	2,070 36
".....	Kincardine.....	114 26
".....	Kinloss.....	1,706 18
".....	Paisley.....	4 07
Carleton.....	Gloucester.....	55 70
".....	Goulburn.....	33 84
".....	Huntley.....	23 11
".....	March.....	7 75
".....	Marlborough.....	21 15
".....	Osgoode.....	32 25
".....	Tarbolton.....	89 08
Durham.....	Cavan.....	38 29
Elgin.....	Dunwich.....	150 27
Essex.....	Colchester.....	118 82
".....	Gosfield.....	32 65
".....	Maidstone.....	84 26
".....	Malden.....	16 42
".....	Musa.....	103 13
".....	Rochester.....	44 73
".....	Tilbury West.....	124 07
Fontenac.....	Barrie.....	126 77
".....	Bedford.....	53 17
".....	Canonto.....	22 40
".....	Hinchinbrooke.....	153 58
".....	Kennebec.....	40 99
".....	Loughborough.....	191 51
".....	Olden.....	534 58
".....	Oso.....	124 32
".....	Palmerston.....	54 29
".....	Portland.....	21 19
".....	Storrington.....	33 90