

difficult to satisfy every one, and any legislation in that direction would necessarily be an experiment. There seemed to be a general desire for a reduction, and the Government would introduce a bill for that purpose this session.

ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE.

Col. Campbell, registrar of the County of Halton, occupied a seat on the floor of the House to-day. A number of members of the Surveyors' Association also occupied seats on the floor of the House during the passage of their bill.

THE PRIVATE BILLS COMMITTEE.

The Private Bills Committee met this morning, Mr. Gibson in the chair, and passed the following bills with slight amendments:—To authorise the Village of Niagara Falls to register a correct plan of the village; to consolidate the debt of the Town of Oshawa.

ONTARIO SHIP RAILWAY.

Mr. Davis has introduced a bill to incorporate Messrs. David Blain, H. H. Cook, lumberman; John C. Fitch; Hugh Blain, merchant; Joseph Blakeley, accountant, all of Toronto; E. L. Corthell of Chicago, engineer; Mark H. Irish of Toronto, broker; Kivas Tully of Toronto, engineer, and William Bell of the Town of Sault Ste. Marie, engineer, under the name of "The Ontario Ship Railway Company," with power to construct from some point on Lake Ontario to some point on the Georgian Bay or Lake Simcoe, or to both Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe, one or more tracks of railway for the purpose of carrying passengers and freights, and conveying vessels, barges and other water craft and their cargoes from the upper lakes to Lake Ontario. The capital stock is placed at \$75,000 to the mile of single track, with power to increase. The bonding powers of the company are limited to \$75,000 per mile of single track. The company shall have power to construct a telegraph line and a telephone line in connection with the railway, and may construct works for generating electricity for the purpose of lighting the line and works and for motive power to be used in connection therewith. The company shall not be compelled to start and run their trains at regular hours, except such trains as they may run daily for the purpose of carrying passengers. The company shall be at liberty to let contracts for the construction of their line of railway without inviting tenders therefor, by public notice or otherwise. If the construction of the railway is not commenced and 10 per cent. of the amount of capital is not expended therefor within five years after the passing of this act, and if one single track of the railway is not finished and put in operation in ten years from the passing of this act, the corporate existence and powers of the company shall cease.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

When the Public Accounts Committee resumed this morning, Mr. Christie, inspector of asylum, was recalled and examined by Mr. Clancy as to his authority for recommending an increase of \$100 in the house rent allowance of Bursar Tracy of the Toronto Asylum. Mr. Christie produced an unsigned letter from Hon. Mr. Hardy, and a good deal of discussion took place as to its genuineness and how it came to be unsigned. Mr. Sol. White made the insinuation that the signature to the document itself was recently written, and strong objection was taken to this by Hon. Mr. Harcourt and others. Hon. Mr. Hardy was sent for, and he explained to the committee that his signature was sometimes made with a stamp, and that in making a copy of the letter the stamp did not print. It might also have occurred through the secretary making a copy before the official signature was added. Mr. Clancy desired to go back over the accounts of the past ten years, with a view to showing, as he stated, the growth of the increased allowances during that time. Mr. Sproule, Provincial Auditor, was called, but only a few ques-

tions were put to him, as the chairman ruled out Mr. Clancy's claim to go so far back. On motion of Mr. Clancy a resolution was adopted instructing the chairman to move in the House for authority to inquire into increases in salaries or allowances since 1881. The committee will resume at 10.30 to-morrow.

RESPECTING ASSIGNMENTS.

Mr. G. B. Smith's bill to amend the law respecting assignments and preferences by insolvent persons provides that preferences given by a debtor to one or more creditors over other creditors shall be conclusively presumed to be fraud if given within 60 days of insolvency, or within 60 days of an impeachment of said preference. It also provides that an endorser or surety shall not have a preference given him by an insolvent debtor.

THE CITY'S LEGISLATION.

The petition from the Toronto City Council asks for power to regulate and license menageries, circus riding and other shows; for authority to acquire an easement or right of entry upon or through land for drainage and other purposes; to require the harbor commissioners to remove obstructions that interfere with navigation; to allow that only copies of municipal documents should be necessary as evidence in courts; making 24 hours instead of 48 hours the period in which candidates nominated for municipal offices may retire; giving the municipality power to reduce the expenditure of the Free Library Board; empowering the city to release parties arrested for drunkenness when they have sobered up, and also decreeing that persons arrested for drunkenness or disorderly conduct may testify in their own behalf.

RAT PORTAGE DEPUTATION.

A deputation from Rat Portage waited on the Government to-day and was introduced by Mr. James Conmee, M.P.P. It was composed of A. Campbell, reeve of Rat Portage; C. W. Chadwick, president of the Board of Trade; J. W. Coleleugh, vice-president of the Board of Trade; John Mather and Richard Fuller of the Keewatin Lumber Company, and Thomas Marks of Port Arthur. They urged on the Government the necessity of issuing licenses for fishing in the inland lakes of the Province. Mr. Hardy stated in answer that the matter had been for some time under consideration. Licenses had not been granted owing to the fact that a case was pending between the Dominion and Provincial Governments as to the jurisdiction over fisheries, not only in regard to inland lakes, but the great lakes as well. He promised, however, to consider the advisability of bringing down interim arrangements whereby licenses could be granted. The question of master of titles at Rat Portage was also discussed with Mr. Mowat. He promised to make the appointment at an early date.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The following committees will meet to day:—Public Accounts at 10 and Standing Orders at 11.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Stratton—Bill to amend the Assessment Act.

Mr. Balfour—Return copies of the application of Clara Brett Martin to the Law Society of Upper Canada for a dmission as a student-at-law, of the report of the special committee of the benchers to which the application was referred, of minutes of the meeting of benchers at which the report was adopted, and of all correspondence on the subject between the Law Society and other parties.

Mr. Campbell (Durham)—Return showing the names of all persons or bodies who have received remuneration for holding religious services in the various asylums of the Province as per statement on page 44 of the report of the inspector of asylums for the year 1891.