

## ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

### Anti-Rebate Clauses Added to the Insurance Bill.

#### MR. MOWAT'S TOBACCO BILL.

#### Clause to Imprison Boy Smokers Withdrawn.

#### AN EXCITING PASSAGE-OF-ARMS BETWEEN MR. TAIT AND MR. MEREDITH—COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

TORONTO, March 24, 1892.

In the Legislative Assembly to-day the following bills were introduced and read a first time :—

Mr. Mowat—Respecting county police magistrates.

Dr. Gilmour—To amend the Municipal Act.

The following bills were read a third time and passed :—To incorporate the Hospital for Sick Children, Mr. H. E. Clarke ; respecting the Township of Seymour, Mr. Willoughby.

#### THE USE OF TOBACCO BY MINORS.

The House then went into committee on the Attorney-General's bill respecting the use of tobacco by minors. The first clause, to punish anyone who sells or gives "to a minor actually or apparently under 18 years of age cigarettes, cigars or tobacco," was adopted without discussion. Mr. Mowat proposed to amend the second clause by dropping the words "has in his possession," leaving it "any person actually or apparently under eighteen years of age who smokes or in any way uses on a public street or other public places cigarettes, cigars or tobacco," etc. He also proposed that for a first offence the youth should be reprimanded in open court, and that for a second conviction the punishment should be a fine or imprisonment, and that, in case of imprisonment, the prisoner shall be kept apart from criminals. Mr. Meredith spoke in favor of the principle of the bill, but thought it would be cruelty to imprison a boy for such an offence. Mr. Baxter, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Davis, Mr. Waters and Mr. Awrey strongly opposed the imprisonment clause.

Mr. Mowat said two of the States had already adopted such a clause. A person who had great experience in such matters assured him that there would be no second offence. In view of the opposition the clause was meeting with in the House he did not intend to press it. He proposed to add instead a clause to the effect that if a person should appear to the magistrate to be under eighteen years he should be presumed to be so, unless there was evidence to the contrary. This was adopted, and at Mr. Meredith's suggestion it was provided that the act should not go into force until July 1, 1892. The result of the amendments is that persons supplying youths with tobacco shall be punished, but not the youths using it. The bill was then reported.

#### SUCCESSION DUTIES.

The House next went into committee upon, passed and reported the resolution respecting the imposition of succession duties, after which it went into committee upon the bill to provide for the payment of these duties.

Mr. Meredith said that the effect of the bill would be to heavily tax the money lent, for example, to lending societies in case the debenture holders died, and so would affect most disastrously the borrowing powers of the country and drive capital out of the country.