

Mr. Gibson proposed to repeal section 17 of chapter 172, the Friendly Societies Act, in order to prevent societies from obtaining judicial recognition to which they were not entitled. Mr. Meredith said he understood that the Woodmen of the World had secured a certificate under the section. Mr. Gibson replied that such a certificate under the circumstances would be of no validity whatever. The amendment was then adopted. The committee rose and reported progress.

The House went into committee on the bill respecting the fees of certain officials.

Mr. Meredith asked why clerks of the peace and Crown attorneys were not included in the list of officials who should contribute part of their revenue to the Province. Mr. Hardy replied that it was not considered that, on the whole, these officials were overpaid. No changes of an important character were made in the bill. Probably the most important amendment was one to insert an "r" in a word which the printer had misspelled.

The bill was reported and the House adjourned at 10.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE STILL INVESTIGATING THE PRICES PAID FOR FISH — OTHER COMMITTEES — NOTICES OF MOTION.

At the Public Accounts Committee this morning the only witness called was W. J. Bray, fish dealer, who was questioned by Mr. Clancy with reference to the market price of fish. Mr. Bray showed that there was great variety in prices, according to the quality of the article and the state of the market. In reply to Mr. Awrey he said that if halibut was included in the fish contract of Mr. Doyle then the uniform charge of 8 cents per pound was quite reasonable. The committee will resume at 10 o'clock this (Friday) morning, when Mr. Bray will show the entries in his books and Mr. Doyle will be again put through the questioning process.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

The Municipal Committee this morning discussed at length Mr. Awrey's bill to amend the Assessment Act by providing that in any city, town or incorporated village in which there are lands held and used as farm lands only, and in blocks of not less than ten acres by any one person, such lands shall be assessed as farm lands. Finally the minimum quantity was placed at five acres. Dr. Gilmour's bill to amend the Municipal Act by providing that the Council of every township situate within a distance of five miles from a city containing 50,000 inhabitants or more may pass by-laws for preventing or regulating the firing of guns or other firearms, and the firing and setting off of fire balls, squibs, crackers or fireworks, was adopted. The clause with respect to the assessment of certain local improvements in townships was limited to any part of a township within five miles of a city of 50,000.

PRIVATE BILLS COMMITTEE.

The Private Bills Committee adopted the bill to amend the act to incorporate the Western University of London by giving the senate power by a three-fourths vote to render the university undenominational, and by changing the name to the Western University and London University College. The bill to incorporate the City of Windsor was adopted, except the clause to give the Council power to organise and control the police force. The bill to amend the act incorporating the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara and to authorise the sale of certain lands was amended by providing that it should not come into force until approved by the synod. That part of Dr. Gilmour's bill to enable Toronto Junction to raise money for Keele street north subway was rejected, but permission was granted

to submit the proposition to the people again at an early date.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The following committees meet to-morrow (Friday):—Railways at 10; Public Accounts at 10; Private Bills at 10.30; Printing at 2.30; select on Mr. Waters' bill for the protection of women, 2.30. The following bills are fixed for consideration by the Railway Committee:—Respecting the Toronto & Mimico Electric Railway & Light Company; to amend the act incorporating the Brockville, Westport & Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company; to incorporate the Toronto Railway Company. The bill to incorporate the Niagara Falls Park & Queenston Electric Railway & Steamboat Company will be considered by the Railway Committee on Tuesday next.

VISITORS TO THE HOUSE.

Messrs. James Somerville, M.P., James Armstrong, M.P., and Andrew Semple, M.P., occupied seats on the floor of the House to-night. Their own House had adjourned over Annunciation Day, a religious holiday, and they were on their way home for a few days.

PROTECTION OF FISH.

Mr. Hardy's bill for the protection of the Provincial fisheries has been printed. It provides that:—No tourist or summer visitor shall take or catch or kill or carry away a greater number than one dozen bass upon any one day. Any summer tourist who shall take or catch in the waters of the Districts of Muskoka or Parry Sound, Haliburton, Nipissing, Algoma, Thunder Bay or Rainy River bass of any kind of less than twelve and one-quarter inches in length, or in the waters of any other part of the Province less than nine and three-quarter inches in length, shall forthwith return the same to the water without unnecessary injury. No person shall take or catch or kill or carry away a greater number than 30 speckled or brook trout on any one day, or more speckled or brook trout than in the aggregate weigh more than fifteen pounds on any one day. No person shall kill, retain or carry away any speckled or brook trout of less than five inches in length. But when any such trout of a length less than six inches shall be taken or caught the same shall be forthwith returned to the water by the person taking or catching the same without unnecessary injury. No person shall at any time fish for, catch or kill speckled trout or brook trout, bass of any kind, pickerel (dore), maskinonge or muscallonge by other means than angling by hand with hook and line in any inland waters. No person shall use dynamite or any other explosive or any poison for the purpose of destroying or taking fish in or from said waters under a penalty of \$100 and two months' imprisonment in the county or district gaol for each offence. No person shall catch, kill or molest fish when passing or attempting to pass through any fishway or fish-pass, or when surmounting any obstacle or leaps, nor use any invention to catch, kill or molest fish in the mill-heads and watercourses appurtenant thereto. No person shall take, catch or kill from or in any inland waters lake trout, salmon trout, whitefish, sturgeon or any other kind of fish which inhabit said waters, or any brook or speckled trout, bass of any kind, pickerel (dore) or maskinonge or muscallonge, or attempt so to do with any kind of net, seine or snare, trap or weir, or night or set line, or fish in any such inland waters therewith for other kinds of fish without first having obtained a license, signed by the Commissioner of Crown Lands or by one of the game and fish inspectors or by a fishery overseer duly authorised to grant such license, under a penalty for the first offence of not less than \$10 or more than \$50, and for a second or subsequent offence of not less than \$20 or more than \$100. But this section shall not apply to mullet or suckers while they are running. The