

showed the strength of the two parties to be:—

	Liberal.	Conservative.
Voted.....	47	30
Absent.....	8	0
Paired.....	2	2
Speaker.....	1	..
Total.....	58	32

Including the Speaker and counting Mr. Campbell (Durham) among the Conservatives, the Government has, therefore, a majority of 26.

Mr. Tait's bill to amend the Assessment Act (exemption of merchants' stocks), the discussion of which was so abruptly terminated on Friday afternoon by the sudden death of Mr. Clarke, was then taken up.

Mr. Hardy suggested that the measure should be withdrawn. The committees were already very busy, and there would not be time to enter into a full consideration of the question.

Mr. Tait expressed a desire to have the matter go before the committee, and it was read a second time.

The following bills received a second reading and were referred to the committee:—To amend the act respecting wages, Mr. Biggar; respecting returns by registrars and masters of title under the Land Titles Act, Mr. Monk; to amend the Municipal Act, Mr. Fell; to amend the Timber Slide Companies Act, Mr. Rayside; to amend the Municipal Act, Mr. Tait; to amend the Assessment Act, Mr. Kirkwood; do. Mr. Wood (Hastings); to amend the Municipal Act, Mr. Evanturel; to amend the Assessment Act, Mr. Gilmour; do. No. 128, Mr. Stratton; to amend the Municipal Act, Mr. Stratton; do. Mr. McKay (Oxford); to amend the Assessment Act, Mr. Biggar; to amend the Municipal Act, Mr. Gilmour; to amend the Municipal Act, Mr. Rayside.

#### A SINGLE TAX BILL.

When Mr. Stratton moved the second reading of his bill (No. 101), "To amend the Assessment Act" (a single tax measure), Mr. Hardy suggested that it should be withdrawn. It was revolutionary and full of dynamite some think. The discussion on the question, he thought, should be in the House and not in committee. There was a great deal to be said pro and con, but as yet no such advance had been made in popular opinion to warrant the question going to committee.

Mr. Stratton said he had hoped the question would have been considered this session, and had also hoped that the chairman of the Municipal Committee would have allowed its consideration in that committee, so that its advocates could have had an opportunity to express their views. However, under the circumstances, he would consent to its withdrawal.

#### LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

##### THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE QUEEN VICTORIA NIAGARA FALLS PARK—A LARGE REVENUE ANTICIPATED.

The sixth annual report of the commissioners of the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park was presented to the House today. Owing to the want of funds no new works of restoration or permanent improvements have been prosecuted during the past year. The ordinary maintenance expenditure for the past year was \$14,588, the revenue only \$7,041, leaving a deficit of \$7,546. To this should be added the interest on the park debentures amounting to \$21,000. To meet this deficit and to prevent the park becoming a charge on the revenues of the Province the commissioners made an agreement with Messrs. E. B. Osier, H. C. Hammond, William Hendrie, R. B. Angus and others for the construction of a high level electric railway from Queenston to Chippewa. The commissioners are to receive \$10,000 per annum for this franchise, the payments to begin September 1, 1892. Should it be found practicable and safe from an engineering point of view, the commissioners may notify the company to proceed within six months with the construction of a low level railway from near the Clifton House to Queenston, and for this additional franchise

the commissioners are to receive \$7,500 per annum. Should the company not proceed with this low level road, the franchise may be granted to another company. It will be seen that at least \$10,000 will be annually added to the park revenues commencing September 1, 1892, and in the event of the low level railway being found practicable the income will be increased by \$7,500. Should certain English capitalists avail themselves of the option they now have to lease the waters of Niagara for the production of electricity, \$25,000 per annum will also be received from that source. If, however, the option lapses, the commissioners are confident, having regard to the rapid development of electrical science, that it will be only a short time before the unlimited force of Niagara will be sought after. The commissioners therefore believe that the park revenues will soon be sufficient not only to meet all expenditure for ordinary maintenance, interest on bonds, as well as the creation of a sinking fund, but that funds will also be available for works of reclamation and the permanent development and improvement of the park. There were 272,485 visitors to the park as compared with 251,923 in the preceding year.

#### THE RAILWAY COMMITTEE.

The Railway Committee this morning passed the bill to incorporate the Carp, Almonte & Lanark Railway Company, and the bill to incorporate the Niagara Falls Park & Queenston Electric Railway Company. The bill to enable the Toronto & Mimico Electric Railway to reach Dufferin street along Queen street was passed, with certain amendments acceptable to all parties concerned. The bill to incorporate John Leys, W. H. Merritt, C. H. Keefer, F. A. Fleming, C. N. Shanly, G. F. Harman, E. W. Dodd and A. G. Peuchen as the Toronto Transfer & Warehousing & Railway Company was thrown out after a long discussion.

#### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The Public Accounts Committee devoted two hours this morning to the investigation of the various prices paid for groceries. M. R. Montgomery of Eby, Blain & Co.'s, and Fred Mason of T. Kinnear & Co.'s, were questioned, but nothing of an important character was elicited.

#### WOMEN AS LAWYERS.

A deputation of ladies, headed by Mrs. McDonnell of the Public School Board, waited upon Mr. Mowat and urged Government support of Mr. Balfour's bill to permit women to enter the profession of law. Mrs. MacMath and Mrs. O'Connor of the High School Board were with the deputation, and Miss Clara Brett Martin, who has been fighting the battle for admission to the law school, appeared to plead her own case. Miss Martin is not seeking renown as a pioneer in the work of progressive development, nor as the possessor of a degree in law. She is merely seeking the privilege of earning her livelihood in that sphere of activity for which her talents seem to have naturally qualified her.

#### TO AMEND THE HEALTH ACT.

Dr. Gilmour intends introducing a bill to amend the Medical Health Act, the chief provision of which is to provide for the appointment of a sanitary engineer to act as referee with regard to sewers calling for action from the Provincial Health Board, also to limit the powers of health officers, especially in the matter of placarding houses where infectious diseases exist. A deputation from the Provincial board consisting of Drs. Cassidy, Rae, Macdonald, Kitchenier and Vaux waited upon Hon. Mr. Dryden yesterday afternoon and informally discussed the matter.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Awrey—Bill to amend the Assessment Act.

Mr. Gilmour—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

The Attorney-General—Resolution—That after Friday next Government business have precedence over all other business except private bills on every day of the session, including Mondays, and that the House do sit on Saturdays at 11 o'clock a.m.