

## ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

## The Expenditure on Upper Canada College Discussed.

MR. MEREDITH'S ATTACK.

## The Policy of the Government is Upheld.

## PROVISIONS OF THE BILL FOR THE PROTECTION OF GAME AND FUR-BEARING ANIMALS.

TORONTO, March 31, 1892.

In the Legislative Assembly to-day the bill to amend the law relating to mortmain and charitable uses was read a third time.

Mr. Mowat moved that after Friday next Government business have precedence over all other business except private bills on every day of the session, including Monday, and that the House do sit on Saturdays at 11 o'clock a.m.

Mr. Meredith suggested that as there were several important notices of motion Government business should not be taken up Monday until after public business, and also that the House should not sit Saturday unless it was found to be the general opinion of the members that it should do so.

Mr. Mowat in reply to Mr. Meredith said it had been originally intended to have prorogation the end of next week, but there was so much business this was scarcely possible. He saw no reason why prorogation should not take place early in the following week. He agreed to the suggestion made by Mr. Meredith, and the motion was amended accordingly.

The House went into committee on the bill to provide for the payment of succession duties in certain cases, made a few amendments and reported the bill.

The House went into committee on certain resolutions regarding bounties for the destruction of wolves. The bounty is increased from \$6 to \$10, of which \$4 shall be paid by the Province, the remainder by the county. Where the wolf is killed in a district which does not form part of a county, the Province shall pay the bounty. The resolutions were then reported.

The House went into committee on, passed and reported the bill to amend the act respecting the taxation of patented lands in Algoma and Thunder Bay.

## THE GAME LAWS.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) moved the second reading of the bill to amend the act for the protection of game and fur-bearing animals. The general direction of the report of the fish and game commissioners was towards making the game laws more stringent, and the bill was for that purpose. The commissioners were evenly divided on the subject of hunting deer by dogs. The compromise arrived at was that hunting with dogs should be allowed the latter part of the season, from Nov. 1 to Nov. 15, and this was inserted in the bill. The bill provides that no deer shall be killed between November 15 and October 15 following. Hunting with hounds shall be lawful only from November 1 to 15, and any hound or dog found running deer during the rest of the year may be kill on sight by anyone. No one person shall kill during any one season more, in all, than two deer, elk, moose, etc. The close season for grouse, partridge, ducks and other water fowls is from December 15 to September 15 following; for quail or wild turkeys, from

December 15 to October 15 following; for swans or geese, from May 1 to September 15 following. No wild turkeys shall be hunted before October 15, 1897, and no beaver, otter or fisher before November 1, 1897. There are some new features in the bill. Section 7 provides that no person shall at any time enter into any growing or standing grain not his own with sporting implements about his person, nor permit his dog or dogs to enter into any such growing or standing grain without permission of the owner or occupant thereof; and no person shall at any time hunt or shoot upon any land of another after being notified not to hunt or shoot thereon, and any person who shall, without the right to do so, hunt or shoot upon any land of another after having been notified not to hunt or shoot thereon, shall be deemed guilty of a violation of this act. Any person found with a dog and gun or with a gun upon lands where game birds are known to exist, shall be deemed prima facie to be there for the purpose of pursuing said birds with intent to kill, and the owner of such lands with such others as he may command to assist him may arrest such person while so on said land and forthwith take him before a justice of the peace. The owner of any land can thus make his land his own preserve by putting up a notice warning off trespassers. He may also prosecute such trespassers and subject them to heavy penalties. A number of farmers can combine together, in fact a whole township may become a valuable preserve in the course of time. Game may thus become a source of considerable revenue to farmers. Another new feature is that foreigners shall pay a license of \$25 before they are allowed to hunt. There was no more legitimate source of revenue. The bill also creates a permanent board of fish and game commissioners of five members, appointed for three years, to go out of office in alternate years, to serve as commissioners without salary or compensation, except the secretary, who shall be the chief game warden and shall keep a record of all matters affecting fish and game. The compensation of the secretary and chief warden shall be paid out of license fees and fines and appropriations of the Assembly, and shall not exceed \$1,200. It is also proposed that there shall be not more than four wardens appointed, in addition to the chief warden, at certain times of the year to see that the laws are enforced. The mere appointment of these wardens will have a strong deterrent effect on law-breakers. These proposals will not entail any great expense and are moderate. The penalty for shooting out of season is much increased. The revenue will be derived from licenses and fines. It is hoped that by obtaining the assistance of servants of the Government in other capacities there may be considerable revenue from these fines for some years until the provisions of the law are generally known. If the bill passes the Province will have the best game law on the continent. There was no doubt that all agreed that all possible steps should be taken to enforce the law and make it a real protection to the game of the country.

Mr. Wood (Hastings) said that all agreed that the time for shooting should be shortened. The provision with respect to hunting with dogs was probably the best that could be devised in view of the diversity of opinion on the subject. He heartily approved of the bill.

Mr. Charlton approved of the object of the bill. He thought some provision should be made to protect deer on private property. He knew of several parties who had deer parks and who raised deer as they would cattle, and he thought unless some change was made in the bill they could not kill their own property. He was opposed to changing the opening day of the shooting season for game birds from September 1st to September 15th. He quoted from the game laws of a number of Provinces and States, and in only one of them did the season begin after September 1st. Before