

be to break up the council. He replied that the universities were the only parties interested in breaking up the council. He offered to withdraw his bill provided the act of last session was repealed, leaving the law as it stood before last session.

Dr. McKay (Oxford) said that the fact that the council had its difficulties did not prove that it was not working for the public benefit. The College of Pharmacy, the Dental College and other institutions had their difficulties, but they were all working for the benefit of the public. There was no agitation at all in favor of the bill in its entirety. The petitions asked merely for the repeal of the penal clauses enacted last session. Not one physician in Ontario signed a petition in favor of Dr. Meacham's bill. He was surprised at the position of Dr. Meacham, because no one last session was more enthusiastic than he in favor of the bill introduced then. It was of the utmost importance that the physicians should have such a standing as to command the confidence of the public. The Ontario Medical Act is the best medical act of the day. The clause imposing a fee, which Dr. Meacham wished to repeal, was enacted not last session but in 1874. Under the impression that it would receive an annual revenue from this source the council assumed heavy obligations in the construction of a building. It would be unfair, now that the building is erected, to deprive it of this revenue by repealing that clause. The profession was under a misapprehension about the building. Owing to the number of students coming up year after year, it was absolutely necessary to have a suitable building and examination hall for their accommodation. The building cost \$60,000. The annual cost of it is \$5,142. If the whole building is rented there will be an income of \$7,840. This would leave a balance to the credit of the council annually of \$2,708. To-day the building is worth \$100,000. Therefore the council cannot be condemned for that investment. The erection of the building was absolutely necessary in the interest of the students and the profession. Under the ordinary Division Court process it was found to be impossible to collect the fees. Last year there were \$13,000 in arrears on the council books. The cost of collecting the fees was almost equal to the fees. Therefore the mode of collecting fees was changed last year. As a result, \$4,726 was collected in 1891, and up to date nearly \$7,000 was collected, and the collection cost simply the postage. The present mode of collecting dues is the same as enacted a few days ago for the surveyors. Lawyers, architects, dentists and other professional men and incorporated companies had similar powers to collect fees by threatening to strike the names from the register. The Medical Act was a compromise. The universities gave up their rights on condition that they should be represented on the council. It would therefore be unfair now to deprive those bodies of their representation. He read a letter from Sir Daniel Wilson, protesting on behalf of the University of Toronto against the repeal of the clause giving the university a representative on the council. Letters were also received from Trinity, Queen's, Toronto medical faculty, Trinity medical faculty, the Western University and other bodies protesting against that feature of the bill. Only three members of the council were from Toronto, namely Dr. Britton, representing Toronto University; Dr. Geikie, representing Trinity Medical Council, and Dr. Thorburn, representing Toronto medical faculty. Therefore the rest of the institutions had fair representation. Even if it were not, it would be unfair to deprive the teaching bodies of the powers given them when they consented in 1863 to give up certain other powers. If they had a register, it was in the public interest that the register should be correct. It could not be kept properly unless the registrar had the powers given him last session. He said he had received letters

from 32 of those who signed the petition, saying they signed the petition under a misapprehension. He also read resolutions from a number of medical associations endorsing the legislation of last session and protesting against the present bill. The bill was not wanted by the medical men of the Province. It would not be in the interests of the profession or of the public. The matter should be left to the council, which will meet in June next.

Mr. Mowat said it was understood the bill should be read a second time and be referred to a special committee. Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) suggested the names of a committee, including all the medical men in the House. The suggestion was adopted, the bill was read a second time and referred to the committee.

Mr. Magwood's bill to amend the Medical Act was also read a second time and referred to the select committee.

Mr. Balfour moved the second reading of his bill to prevent the wasting of natural gas and to provide for the plugging of all abandoned wells. The provisions of the bill are now enforced in Indiana and Ohio, and the bill was introduced at the request of those interested in gas. The bill was read a second time and referred to the Law Committee.

Mr. Tait moved the second reading of the bill to amend the Land Titles Act, by providing that no map or plan shall be filed in the office of the master of titles at Toronto or in the office of any local master of titles upon which a road, street or highway less than 66 feet wide is laid out unless and until the assent of the proper Municipal Council is registered therewith where such assent is by law necessary. The bill was read a second time and referred to the Law Committee.

Mr. Tait's bill to amend the Debentures Registration Act was also read a second time and referred to the Law Committee. Mr. Tait's bill to amend the Public Health Act by repealing section 28 and substituting the following, "Nothing in sections 22 to 27 of this act shall authorise the board to take possession of any land or building nearer than 150 yards to an inhabited dwelling," was also read a second time.

Mr. Tait's bill to amend the Free Libraries Act was read a second time and referred to the Municipal Committee. It restricts the powers of Free Library Boards to expend money, establish museums, etc.

Mr. Gilmour moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Street Railway Act by giving municipalities power to grant a franchise for 30 years instead of 20. He said that similar powers had been given the City of Toronto. The motion was lost on division, only the mover voting in favor of it.

Mr. O'Connor's bill to amend the act providing against frauds in supplying of milk to cheese or butter manufactories was read a second time and referred to a select committee.

The following bills were also read a second time:—To amend the Division Courts Act, Mr. Sharpe; to amend the act to encourage the destroying of wolves, Mr. Sharpe; to amend the Ontario Joint Stock Companies Letters Patent Act, Mr. Meredith; to amend the Act Respecting Building Societies, Mr. Dack; to amend the Municipal Act, Mr. Stratton.

Mr. Allan moved the second reading of the bill to amend the Dentistry Act, providing that the Province shall be divided into seven districts for the election of the board, and the election shall be by ballot. The bill was read a second time and referred to a special committee.

The House adjourned at 10.50 until Monday.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

THE CITY'S BILL ROUGHLY HANDLED BY THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE—THE BILL TO EXEMPT BUSINESS CAPITAL WITHDRAWN.

The Municipal Committee this morning considered Mr. Tait's bill to exempt from