

taxation the capital of any person which is invested or employed in any wholesale or retail mercantile business in this Province, and the stock-in-trade, book debts and other assets held for the purposes of or in connection with said business; but the income or profits derived from such capital shall be liable to be assessed. The bill was supported by Messrs. Paul Campbell, Stapleton Caldecott, John Knox (Hamilton), Thomas C. Watkins (Hamilton). It was opposed by Dr. Barrick, J. K. Kerr, Alexander Manning and Robert Jaffray. Mr. Wood (Hastings) declared the bill to be outrageous. Mr. Balfour was against it. Finally the bill was withdrawn.

The city's bill to amend the Municipal Act was next taken up. The clause to abolish the property qualification for alderman in cities of over 100,000 inhabitants was lost, no one being in favor of it. The clause to keep the polls open until 8 o'clock instead of 5, to give workingmen more time to vote, was also lost, the committee being unanimously opposed to it. The clause to provide for separate polling places for women voters was withdrawn. The time within which persons nominated for office may resign was limited to one day after nomination, instead of two days as at present. The clause to give the head of the Council the same power as the county judge to make an investigation under oath into charges of malfeasance or other misconduct on the part of municipal officers, was lost, only three or four being in favor of it. The committee had a lot of fun over the clause that "in cities any such by-law may provide that the chief constable of the municipality or the inspector in charge of any police station to which any person is brought on the charge of being drunk and disorderly or drunk or disorderly may release such person without bringing him before a justice of the peace or police magistrate; and any person arrested for the said offences shall be a competent witness on his own behalf." Finally it was decided to limit the clause to the first and second offence, and only to the offence of being drunk and not disorderly. A chorus of "lost," "lost," greeted the clause providing that the Municipal Council of any city or town may, with the consent of the majority of the property owners on any street, drive or other public highway or any portion thereof bounded by cross streets, set apart such streets or the portion thereof so bounded for the speeding or fast driving or riding of horses thereon. Ten voted for the clause and twice as many against it. "What is this for?" said Mr. Hardy as he read the clause to amend sub-section 25 of section 489 by substituting for the word "fines" the words "fines to the amount of the license fee." Mr. Biggar explained that the city might charge a circus \$500 for a license but the circus could escape the tax by paying a \$50 fine. "That is hard on the circus," said Mr. Hardy, but the clause was adopted.

Mr. Hardy asked an explanation of the next clause:—"And for preventing the posting of placards or pictures exhibiting nude figures representing the human body or portions thereof usually covered with clothing."

"I can't explain that," said Mr. Biggar, amidst roars of laughter. The committee was almost unanimous in rejecting such a proposition.

#### THE SUNDAY STREET CAR QUESTION.

The Toronto Street Railway Bill came up before the Railway Committee again this morning. Mr. Wood (Hastings) said that unless something definite was added to the bill it was possible that the company might run cars on Sunday. He therefore moved that the following words be added to the first clause:—"Provided that notwithstanding anything in the schedule or in the act, no cars shall be run on the Lord's Day." Mr. E. F. Clarke said that matter was settled the last day and protested against its being opened up again, and objected that no notice of this amendment was given. Mr. W. H. Howland said that the clause in the agreement allowing the company

to run cars on Sunday if the people voted for it was confirmed by the first clause of the act. The agreement could not be changed, and therefore the words proposed by Mr. Wood must be inserted in the first clause of the act of incorporation of the company in order to prevent Sunday cars. The prohibition would not be for 30 years, but during the pleasure of the Legislature, because it could be repealed the next or any other session. He declared that the clause giving the people the power to pass on the question was illegal, and strongly urged that there be added to the fourth clause these words:—"Provided that the running of the street cars on the Lord's Day shall be contrary to the powers conferred by the act, and shall be a public nuisance and may be restrained at the suit of the Attorney-General or of any rate-payer or any person injured thereby." Mr. Meredith said he was in favor of a quiet Sunday, but could not see that the evils complained of would arise from Sunday cars. It was a fair argument to say that it might injure workingmen, but he protested against the argument that Sunday cars were immoral. The argument that immorality would arise from Sunday street cars was a slander on the city. Mr. Tait said he had voted against Sunday cars, but did not consider them immoral. He could not take the position that the people should be prevented from having Sunday cars if they wanted them. A time might come when the Sunday cars would be a necessity. Mr. E. F. Clarke said that Mr. Wood's resolution would place the city in an unfair position as compared with other municipalities regarding the question of Sunday cars. The vote was then taken on Mr. Wood's amendment, which was lost by a vote of 21 to 28. Mr. Biggar said that the City Council was opposed to certain clauses which he and Mr. Blake had agreed to the other day and which the committee then adopted. "Oh! what humbugging," said Mr. E. F. Clarke. The committee took the same view, refused to go back on its action of the previous day, and passed the bill.

#### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

At the Public Accounts Committee this morning Mr. T. Kinnear, wholesale grocer, was questioned regarding his prices for groceries as compared with the prices paid by the Government for the Toronto Asylum supplies. While it was shown that most of his prices were less than those charged, it was claimed that the difference consisted in the quality of the goods. Mr. Marter was the examiner-in-chief, while Chairman Awrey and Mr. Garrow took an occasional hand in the discussion.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Guthrie—Bill respecting the establishment of municipal institutions in the districts of "Algoma, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Nipissing, Thunder Bay and Rainy River."

Mr. Marter—Bill to reduce the qualification of municipal voters in the towns and villages in the free grant districts.

Mr. Marter—Bill to reduce the qualification for members of Municipal Councils in the towns and villages in the free grant districts.

Mr. Kerns—Return showing the names of all authors and publishers of public and high school text books, with the respective books published by them and the prices thereof; also copies of all correspondence by or with the Minister of Education or any officer of his department respecting the price or publication of public or high school text books subsequent to that already brought down.