

When the House resumed at 7.30 Mr. Hardy's bill "to amend and consolidate the mining laws" was taken up in committee. An amendment was made providing that the royalty shall be calculated upon the ores or minerals at the pit's mouth, less the actual cost of mining or raising the same to the surface. A new clause in the bill was that where a prospector or explorer makes an original discovery at a distance of three miles from any known or discovered mine the grantee or lessee, his executors or assigns shall be exempted from paying royalty on any part of the ore for a term of fifteen years.

Mr. Conmee suggested that where a new vein is discovered the three-mile limit was too much. He instanced the Badger and Beaver mines, which were within a mile of each other.

Mr. Hardy consented to make it one mile instead of three miles, and the bill was amended accordingly.

Mr. Conmee thought the price of mining lands as proposed by the bill was too high. He thought that outside of the railway belt they might put the price at \$2 50 for surveyed and \$2 for the unsurveyed lands.

Mr. Hardy replied that it was proposed in the bill to reduce the scale of prices originally proposed to the following figures:—If in a surveyed township and within twelve miles of any railway, \$4; if within twelve miles of any railway, but in unsurveyed territory, \$3 50; all other mining lands in surveyed territory, \$3; all other mining lands in unsurveyed territory, \$2 50. The price per acre of all other Crown lands sold as mining lands or locations and lying south of the aforesaid lake and rivers shall be:—If in a surveyed township and within twelve miles of any railway, \$2 50; if situate elsewhere, \$2.

An amendment was made that in addition to the payment of \$5 for a miner's license, there shall be an annual rental fee of \$1 per acre.

The clause regarding the dimensions of mining claims was amended as follows:—

(1) For one person, 666 feet along a vein or lode by 333 feet on each side thereof, measuring from the centre of the vein or lode.

Companies of two or more persons who each hold a miner's license may stake out and work additional feet along a vein or lode by the above width in the proportion of 100 additional feet in length for every additional miner, not to exceed twenty acres altogether, and may work the claim jointly.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY FEES.

The House next went into committee and passed Mr. Ross' bill "to amend the act respecting the federation of the University of Toronto and University College with other universities and colleges." In explaining this bill Mr. Ross said that it dealt with some minor changes that had been carefully considered and recommended by the university senate. With reference to a clause fixing the method by which fees were to be imposed, Mr. Ross stated that it was intended to impose a special fee for the use of the university library somewhat on the German plan. It was thought better that instead of the library being maintained out of the general income of the university it should be maintained by fees payable by those enjoying its benefits. The bill was read a second time.

The bill to consolidate the acts respecting elections of members to the Legislature was read a second time, as was also the bill introduced by the Attorney-General respecting the courts of Algoma and Thunder Bay. This latter bill provides for two sittings each year of the High Court at Sault Ste. Marie and Port Arthur instead of one sitting as heretofore.

A FRANCHISE MEASURE.

Mr. Ross moved the second reading of the bill "respecting voters' lists in the unorganised territories." This measure provides that the lists shall be made on the basis of manhood suffrage, and the officer to be entrusted with the duty of preparing the lists shall be the sheriff, or where there is no sheriff then the police magistrate of the district shall discharge the duty. The ap-

peal shall be had to the stipendiary magistrate.

Mr. Meredith thought this would be placing too much power in the hands of Government officials. It was a Franchise Act passed by the Local Government on a small scale, and it would be open to all the objections urged against the Dominion Franchise Act. There ought, he considered, to be an appeal from the official preparing the lists to the proper judicial authority.

Mr. Mowat replied that the bill had been carefully considered with a view to meeting the special circumstances of the case. The officials named as those who should prepare the lists were permanent officers, who would expect to retain their positions under a change of Government. This was a better safeguard, he considered, than the special officers appointed under the Dominion act.

Mr. Meredith said that when the bill was introduced the Attorney-General intimated it would not be pressed this session. Now the attitude of the Government is changed and the bill is pressed. Perhaps this change was a confirmation of the rumors flying around that the Attorney-General intended to retire from politics, and that the elections would be held soon in order that the hon. gentleman might lead his party through one more election. The change of intention regarding this bill certainly gave color to the rumor.

Mr. Hardy—I can give the hon. gentleman the most absolute assurance that the Attorney-General has not the slightest intention to retire. (Great applause.)

Mr. Wood (Hastings)—The party cannot spare him.

Mr. Hardy—Precisely! Precisely! (Renewed applause.)

The bill, after some further discussion, was read a second time.

Mr. Mowat's bill to consolidate the acts respecting compensation to workmen in certain cases was also read a second time.

The House then went into committee of supply, taking up first the item of \$95,600 for colonisation roads. The Opposition made the usual objection that these grants were used for political purposes.

During the discussion Mr. Marter arraigned the policy of the Government on curious grounds. He said that the Government during his first term as a member spent a great deal of money in the hope of winning back the riding, and during his second term the Government spent nothing in order to coerce the riding into its old allegiance, and added that the Government should not employ Conservatives on the roads there because it won them over to support the Liberal candidates. As Mr. Hardy pointed out, the logical outcome of Mr. Marter's arguments would be that the Government should spend nothing on colonisation roads in Muskoka. If money was not spent it was an injustice, and if money was spent it was an effort to purchase the constituency. Mr. Martr's constituents no doubt would appreciate their representative at his proper value. After a long discussion the item was passed. The votes of \$130,209 for charges on Crown lands and of \$23,115 on refund account were also adopted. Mr. McKechnie drew the attention of the House to the fact that a large amount of arrears of interest on Crown lands sold in Grey was due the department, and said that unless some abatement of interest was made the settlers would never be able to pay. On one lot there was due \$128 of principal, but \$238 of interest; on another \$244 of principal, but \$338 of interest, and on a third \$180 of principal, but \$280 of interest. The chairman ruled further discussion out of order as the committee had risen.

Mr. White drew the attention of the House to the fact that one judge of the High Court refused to hold court in a building when there was no flag flying, and would not sit on one occasion because there was no coat of arms over his seat. He suggested that the Attorney-General might furnish this judge with a flag to carry around with him, and proposed that as the flag now in use at the Parliament buildings would probably not be the one used on the new buildings the judge might have it.

Mr. Conmee—How would the Stars and Stripes do you? (Laughter.)

The House adjourned at 12.15.