

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

The Business of the Legislative Assembly Concluded.

SUBSIDIES TO RAILWAYS.

The Salary of the Attorney-General Increased.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTION LAW DISCUSSED—CLOSING SCENES OF THE SESSION—PROROGATION THURSDAY.

TORONTO, April 12, 1892.

In the Legislative Assembly this morning, Mr. Whitney, rising to a question of privilege, asked the Attorney-General whether, in view of the fact that the bill introduced by the member for South Essex (Mr. Balfour) had passed, it was the intention of the Government to employ young women as pages on the floor of the House and as sessional writers. (Laughter.)

Mr. Mowat said he congratulated the hon. gentleman on the progress he had made. He was fairly startled by the extent of the recommendation. He had not thought of such a change. But he presumed the hon. gentleman represented the feeling of his leader and the Opposition generally, and the matter would be taken into consideration. (Laughter.)

Mr. Wood (Hastings) rose to a question of privilege with regard to the report in THE GLOBE of the proceedings in the House last night on the Toronto Street Railway Bill. The report said:—"The fact is that Mr. Meredith completely hoodwinked his confiding follower. Mr. Wood blindly accepted the statement of his leader that the additional words would merely place Toronto on an equal footing with other places without hurting his proposition which had been accepted by the House." Mr. Wood said:—"When the bill was before the Private Bills Committee I objected to any clauses that the bill contained that would give them rights as to running cars on Sunday that the general law did not contain. The counsel for the city, Mr. Blake, contended that such was the case, and the bill was amended, as I understood, in that direction. Subsequently further action was taken, but was negatived in the committee. I then stated that I would do what was done in the House last night, introduce an amendment on the third reading. My whole object was, as I stated, to prevent special clauses that would put Toronto in any different position as to street cars than the general law contained—which I had reason to believe prohibited the running of street cars on Sunday. On learning what was stated by the hon. member for London, I was impressed with the opinion that I was going further than the position I had taken warranted me, and the effect of the amendments made is that the company has only such rights as to running cars on Sunday as the general law gives, which I understand is common to all, and has the further restriction that it cannot even exercise these rights unless by the consent of Toronto. Then I was not hoodwinked, neither did I blindly accept a statement from the leader of this side of the House, nor did I understand him stating other than in effect as above. If the general law does not protect the people from Sabbath desecration then I can only be consistent by doing what I insisted others should do, not seek to get protection by a side issue, but amend the general law in that direction, which I propose to seek to do at a future meeting of this Parliament."

LIQUOR LAW CHANGES.

The House went into committee on the bill to amend the Liquor License Act, and made some amendments. Mr. Meredith called attention to a complaint received from Waterloo that the inspector of licenses went to a magistrate asking that a charge of violating the law might be compromised. Mr. Harcourt said the department had no knowledge of anything so grave. Mr. Moore explained the circumstances of the complaints and showed that there was little ground for complaint, and added that Mr. Manning had been sent up from Toronto, but thought the case a trivial one. Mr. Harcourt said the matter would be looked into, and if it was found as serious as stated another investigation would be made. On the motion for the third reading Mr. Meredith moved that there be struck out of section 5 the words "to persons being holders of licenses under the act," on the ground that they limit the right of brewers to sell by wholesale outside of the license district in which the breweries are situated to others than holders of licenses. The amendment was declared lost on division, and the bill was read a third time. With regard to the minimum quantity to be sold by brewers the law will now stand, 4 gallons for lager, 10 gallons for ales and other beers in all electoral districts save that in which the brewer carries on his business; 5 gallons for ales and other beers than lager in districts where brewers carry on business; but this is to stand for only two years from the passing of the act.

Mr. Hardy moved that the full sessional indemnity be paid to Messrs. Fraser, Bronson, Porter, Smith (York), absent during part of session on account of ill-health, and to Messrs. Barr (Renfrew) and Harty, who were elected after the session began and took part in the practical working of the session. The motion was carried.

Mr. Whitney moved that the full sessional indemnity be paid Messrs. Smith (Frontenac) and Miscampbell, absent during part of the session on account of ill-health, and to the widow of the late H. E. Clarke. The motion was adopted.

The House went into committee and passed resolutions to grant a subsidy of \$3,000 a mile, not to exceed \$30,000 in all, to the Irondale, Bancroft & Ottawa Railway for ten miles of the railway eastward from Irondale. The resolutions were adopted and referred to the bill respecting aid to certain railways.

The House then went into committee on the bill to consolidate the acts respecting the election of members to the Legislature. Several members of the Opposition claimed that the oath of allegiance was not sufficiently explicit, as there were many who had gone to the United States and forsworn their right to vote here, but they could still claim to be British subjects by birth. They suggested that the words "birth or naturalisation" be struck out, leaving the statement simply "I am a British subject."

Mr. O'Connor said it was rather strange that the other side should take this stand, because he could tell them that the Government candidates at the recent Dominion by-elections in East Bruce and West Huron were elected by the votes of American citizens. The hon. member for London ought not to take such a stand since he had made such a record for himself.

Mr. Meredith grew quite wrathful, and said that the member for Bruce's remarks were only worthy of contempt. It was a reasonable thing that they should point out the ease with which Americans could vote and at the same time claim under our law to be British subjects by birth. He denied that there was anything to be ashamed of in his record.

Mr. O'Connor said the hon. member for London ought not to get so excited or indignant when any matter that seemed to affect him was brought up. His record was