

Mr. Waters—To enable women to vote for members of the legislative assembly in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Waters—To enable married women to vote for members of municipal councils.

SERVANTS OF THE CROWN.

Mr. Meredith then moved for an order of the house for a return of the names of all persons who, during the year 1871, held office under the crown, or were employed in or in connection with any department or branch of the public service, together with a statement of the salary or remuneration attached to or payable in respect of each such office or employment; the date when each permanent office was created; and for a like return for the year 1892. In support of his resolution Mr. Meredith claimed that the public would be startled when the return was brought down to find what a large increase there had been of late in the number of officials of the province. In 1871 the government council was composed of five members; to-day there were seven. In the case of the minister of education it might be said that there existed before that the office of superintendent of instruction, but there were many officials now required to carry on that work, and he was not sure they were all needed. Then, in the case of the department of agriculture, while the members on his side of the house were in favor of something being done for the benefit of the farmers, they were not in favor of a minister of the crown being created to superintend the work. It was most important that members of the house should know just how much more was paid out now in salaries than in 1871, and how many new offices had been created.

"We have no objection whatever to the motion of the hon. member," replied the attorney-general. The information he had asked for was not new, nor was it anything different from what had been given from time to time in the public accounts. The hon. member had taken an early opportunity of repudiating the action of his friends at Ottawa in making appointments as a reward for party services, and he might rest assured that the Ontario government would take all due care that no appointments were made except such as were actually necessary. It was true that there were more officers now than in 1871, but many new departments had been added to the government since then—departments that were absolutely necessary owing to the growth of the country and the increase of public business. He would venture to say that the public officials to-day were just as fully occupied as ever before, and that they were no more in number than in 1871, considering the difference in the circumstances of the country.

THE MIDDLESEX REGISTRARSHIP.

Mr. Meredith then moved for an order of the house for a return showing how often in the past ten years the office of registrar of deeds for the north and east ridings of the county of Middlesex had become vacant, the dates when the vacancies occurred, and when they were filled, and, if the office is now vacant, how long the vacancy has continued.

This subject, said Mr. Meredith, is not very new either. During the past ten years the office mentioned had been vacant twice, the last vacancy, which occurred four years ago, not yet having been filled. He deplored the practice of keeping offices of such importance dangling before party friends, waiting perhaps for some gentleman to decide whether he would like to fill it or not. A case in point, he said, was the appointment of a member of the house during the past year to the registrarship of Peel. Such offices, he concluded, if necessary at all, should be filled as soon as possible, so that there might be no inconvenience caused to the public service.

In reply, the attorney-general stated that this, as the hon. member knew, was an exceptional case. He (Mr. Meredith) did not pretend to say that it was a common thing to keep such offices long vacant, it being the policy of the government to fill up vacancies as rapidly as circumstances would permit. In the particular case mentioned the public was not put to the slightest inconvenience, as the duties of the office were discharged as carefully and faithfully as anyone could desire. The appointment of Mr. Chisholm to the registrarship of Peel was one that gave great satisfaction throughout the riding, to both Conservatives and Reformers. These were the only two cases that had been mentioned, and in both an adequate and satisfactory reason could be given.

Hon. Mr. Gibson then laid on the table a number of departmental reports and the report of the commission on dehorning.

NO ELECTION THIS YEAR.

Before moving the adjournment of the house, the attorney-general said that the notion seemed to prevail that the government contemplated having a general election before another session of the house. It was only right to say for the information of the members and the public generally that this was not so. They had always contended that there should be a

fourth session of the legislature before an election, and that would continue to be the policy of the government. (Applause.)

Mr. Meredith said that the information just given was very satisfactory to the house and to the country. He had always held that there should be a fixed date for the holding of a general election, so that the public might not be kept in a state of doubt and suspense.

The house then adjourned.

NOTES OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Sir Oliver Mowat's bill respecting dower in mortgaged property provides that a wife cannot bring an action for dower where she had joined in a deed of conveyance or had signed a deed in which her husband has conveyed land. The bill also provides that where land is sold under power of a mortgage, the wife of the mortgagor shall only have dower in the surplus over and above the amount of the mortgage money. At present the dower is calculated on the basis of the amount of money realized from the sale of the land.

Sir Oliver Mowat's bill to extend the time for vesting estates in heirs or devisees enables executors and administrators to register caution more than 12 months after the death of the testator in cases where they have omitted to do so within that time.

The attorney-general's bill respecting securities in the surrogate court provides that the bond or policy of a guarantee company may be accepted in lieu of the security required from executors, administrators and guardians, under the surrogate courts act.

Mr. Dryden's bill to provide further against the extermination of the plant called ginseng purposes to make the present act more effective. It declares persons purchasing ginseng knowing it to have been gathered within the prohibited dates to be liable for the contravention of the act.

The bill introduced by Mr. Meredith purposes to give married women the same rights in regard to the holding of property as those now enjoyed by unmarried women.

Mr. Balfour in his bill to amend the voters' lists act proposes a simplification of the procedure in regard to notifying persons whose names are appealed against.

Mr. Waters' bill to amend the municipal act provides that in fixing the qualification of candidates for election to a municipal council on a leasehold no deduction shall be made on account of "liens, charges or incumbrances" against it. The bill also corrects a clerical error in the provision of the act relating to notice of appeals in drainage cases.

Mr. Waters' proposed amendment of the assessment act abolishes ad personalty assessment and classifies the income tax under seventeen heads.

DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

Hon. Mr. Gibson's bill on the child problem is an effort to meet an outgrowth of modern civilization, and to provide in a practical way for the care of dependent children as wards of the state. It has long been a recognized fact that the criminal population has been largely replenished from the neglected children element, and the bill provides, in brief, for the rigid enforcement of the parental obligation, the prohibition of children from begging, singing on the public streets for money, entering saloons or other places where liquor is sold, or taking part in theatrical performances, unless specially licensed to do so. Where parents are proved to be utterly unworthy of the care or guardianship of children, and where the children if left in their care are likely to become outcasts from society, the courts may sever the parental relationship, and commit the children to the guardianship of a children's aid society or other duly qualified organization to be placed in a foster home. For the expense of maintenance the parents will be compelled as far as possible to pay \$1 per week for each child, and, failing this, the municipality from which the child comes must pay the amount. For the supervision of these foster homes throughout the province the bill provides for the appointment of visiting committees, and for the superintendence and direction of the whole work a provincial officer or state guardian will be appointed. By this system it is expected that