

under the game laws in the county of Lennox and Addington, and for copies of all convictions for offences under the game laws in said county since the 1st July, 1892.

The burden of Mr. Reid's complaint was that persons accused of violating the game laws in the remote parts of these united counties were compelled to stand their trial a hundred miles or more away from their homes. He suggested that the game act be so amended as to permit settlers and others in distant parts of the counties to procure fish and game for their own tables.

Dr. Meacham also found fault with the act and with its unduly severe enforcement.

Mr. Gibson said that he had been informed that persons had been brought from the back part of Lennox to Napanee for trial. He was not going to attempt to justify this proceeding or to condemn it, as the matter had not yet been investigated. The inquiry was now proceeding, however. He had been informed that the magistrates in the neighborhood of where the alleged offence had been committed had refused to try the case, but it was a question whether other magistrates could not have been found nearer than Napanee. The wish of the government was that proper discretion should be exercised by the officers appointed to administer the law. The government had no sympathy with results which appeared to have attended this case.

Mr. Meredith said that an officer guilty of such conduct as had been charged ought to be dismissed at once. If the game laws were not properly and carefully administered the pressure from the country would cause them to be repealed altogether. He suggested that settlers in new districts be allowed to take such fish and game as they required for their own use.

Mr. Smith condemned the appointment of Deputy Warden Huff to enforce the law in that district.

Mr. McColl said that when the game laws were amended it was distinctly understood that rabbits were left out of it, but the game warden of Elgin county, on the assumption that a rabbit was a hare, as held by the game commission, had prohibited the shooting of rabbits. Those who had disregarded the prohibition had been fined.

Mr. Balfour advocated a more thorough enforcement of the law against the Americans who cross the Detroit river and shoot game unmolested, while Canadians were prevented from doing likewise. The people, he said, should be allowed to shoot rabbits, as they were a pest. As to the trial of persons at points far removed from their place of residence, he thought the act should be so amended as to provide against it.

ROUGH ON THE MAGISTRATES.

Mr. Whitney said that it was his belief that when the inquiry into the case in question was concluded it would be found that the local magistrate was to blame for the whole trouble. The magistrate in the rural districts was generally an unmitigated nuisance—the biggest nuisance there was in the community as a rule. He was prepared to defend this statement. The reason was that he was appointed on the recommendation of political workers for political services rendered. Nine out of ten of them in the rural districts were unfit for their positions.

Sir Oliver Mowat said that he was perfectly sure that Mr. Whitney was entirely wrong when he said that nine out of

ten of the police magistrates were unfit for their positions. The government never made an appointment of a police magistrate without the testimony of the citizens in his district that he was the best man to appoint, and almost invariably they required that he should be an experienced man. Mr. Whitney had, unintentionally, he had no doubt, maligned the police magistrates of the country.

Mr. Stratton said that Mr. Whitney must have run foul of some of the police magistrates in the rural districts. In the county of Peterboro' they had a police magistrate who was appointed on the recommendation of the county council. Instead of being a nuisance, he was a valuable addition to the administration of justice.

Mr. Wood (Brant) said that, while the provision of the statute was that rabbits were not protected, the printed instructions issued to the wardens declared that rabbits were protected. The instructions should be harmonized with the statute.

MR. HARDY'S LETTER.

Mr. Hardy said that the act of last session did not fix the close season, as that was fixed by the Dominion law. There had been some complaint that set-

tlers had not been allowed to fish with nets for their own family supply. The reason why licenses had not been issued was that the question of jurisdiction as between the Dominion and the province had been raised. However, licenses were to be issued authorizing settlers to catch fish with nets for their own use. He sympathized with the statement as to the impropriety of dragging men 50 and 75 miles to be tried for alleged infractions of the game laws. In the case which had been referred to, the deputy warden whose conduct had been complained of, though subject to dismissal by the government, was the appointee of the commission. On the representation of the reeve of the township, he had written a letter to the deputy warden, Huff, in which he had said that the government had nothing but the strongest reprobation for the conduct charged against him, and intimating that a successor would be appointed if there was a repetition of this sort of persecution. Huff had replied stating that he had found difficulty in obtaining magistrates because there were none in the locality. He (Mr. Hardy) had procured a list of magistrates in the locality and given it to the secretary of the commission, who was making further inquiries.

The discussion was continued by Messrs. Hiscott, McLenaghan, Rayside and Clancy. The motion was adopted.

PRIVATE BILLS.

The following private bills were put through committee—:

Respecting certain burying grounds in the city Kingston—Mr. Harty.

To amend an act respecting St. Andrew's church, Ottawa—Mr. Bronson.

Respecting the School of Mining and Agriculture—Mr. Harty.

These were read a second time:—

Respecting the incorporated synod of the diocese of Ontario—Mr. Harty.

To ~~amend~~ the incorporated synod of the diocese of Ontario to mortgage certain land in the town of Trenton—Mr. Biggar.

Respecting the Sarnia Consumers' Gas company, and to change its name to the Sarnia Gas & Electric Light company—Mr. Mackenzie (Lambton W.).

To enable the board of education for the town of Sarnia to convey certain lands to the corporation of the town of Sarnia—Mr. Mackenzie (Lambton W.).

To authorize the city of Ottawa to issue certain debentures in aid of the Ottawa, Arnprior & Parry Sound Railway company—Mr. Bronson.

To authorize the city of Ottawa to issue debentures in aid of the Kingston, Smith's Falls & Ottawa Railway company—Mr. Bronson.

Respecting St. George's church, Kingston—Mr. Harty.

To incorporate the Pembroke Southern Railway company—Mr. Barr (Renfrew).

To incorporate the Sudbury & Nipissing Railway company—Mr. Loughrin.

Respecting the Sault Ste. Marie & Hudson Bay Railway company—Mr. Tait.

To amend the act incorporating the Parry Sound Colonization Railway company—Mr. Sharpe.

Respecting the debenture debt of the city of Brantford—Mr. Wood (Brant).

Respecting the Chatham Waterworks company—Mr. Ferguson.

Respecting the town of Toronto Junction—Mr. Gilmour.

The house adjourned at 6.