

# RESERVED FOR THE PEOPLE.

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## A Great Public Park and Recreation Ground.

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### HON. MR. HARDY'S PROJECT

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## The Children's Charter Passed Through Committee.

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### A BIG DAY FOR THE COMMITTEES—UNDERTAKERS WHO ARE SEEKING INCORPORATION.

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May 9.

Three important government measures were considered by the house to day. They were Mr. Hardy's bill establishing the Algonquin National park, which was discussed and read a second time. The children's bill was again taken up in committee and reported, and the bill brought in by Mr. Gibson to perfect the insurance legislation of two years ago, which was also passed through committee.

The following bills were read a third time:—Respecting the railway debenture debt of the county of Perth—Mr. Magwood. Respecting the Narrows bridge in the township of Seymour—Mr. Field.

The house then went into committee and passed Mr. Fraser's bill "relating to the erection of the new provincial buildings."

Mr. Gibson's children's bill was next taken up and some slight changes made in the wording of two or three of the clauses to meet objections raised by Mr. Meredith. Mr. Clancy objected to the guardianship over such children extending to 21 years, but Mr. Gibson explained that this was an essential provision, but it would only be acted upon in the best interests of the child. Mr. Fraser made a strong plea for the retention of the age of 21. The most dangerous period in the history of a young girl was at seventeen or eighteen years of age, and it would be almost criminal to in all cases give them their full liberty. The bill passed committee.

Mr. Harcourt's bill to amend the public health act was read in committee. Mr. Gibson's bill to amend the registry act received its second reading after a long discussion, in which the old charges of the registrarships being sinecures were brought up.

#### THE ALGONQUIN PARK.

Mr. Hardy introduced his bill to establish the Algonquin National park of Ontario. The question of a national park on the northerly and easterly borders of the province had, he said, been under consideration by the government for many years past. He referred to the valuable report on the subject made by Mr. Kirkwood and later by Mr. Phipps. The park area, while similar to a large extent to the Adirondacks, would not involve anything like the expenditure there. It was proposed to take in about eighteen townships, embracing 938,186 acres or 1,300 square miles of territory. Of this 106,000 acres were under water. The land is