# MUST SPEAK LOUDER.

Members Who Mumble Are Not Heard.

THE ACOUSTICS ALL RIGHT.

Some Criticism of the Chamber Indulged in.

HAVE AN SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES TO ANNUAL ALLOWANCE \$1,000 EACH.

Saturday, May 20.

The acoustic properties of the new legislative chamber were the subject of quite an informal discussion in the house today, and not the least interested of the auditors were the newspaper men, who through the session have experienced great difficulty in reporting the proceedings because of the conversational tone in which much of the business has been conducted. Mr. Fraser, whose sonorous voice is heard distinctly in all parts of the chamber when he speaks, defended the acoustics of the building and reminded the members that they were in a chamber four times the size of the old one and much larger than the country schoolhouses where they were accustomed to address their constituents. If they would increase the volume of their tones they would be heard. A motion by the attorney-general was passed through committee providing that all superior court judges shall receive an annual allowance of \$1,000 in acknowledgment of the services they render in addition to their ordinary judicial duties.

Mr. Bishop introduced a bill for the prevention of fraudulent statements by joint stock companies.

## MEMBERS SHOULD SPEAK UP.

Upon the orders of the day being called, Mr. Hardy arose to correct an error in The Mail's report of what he had said yesterday in answering a question by Mr. Miscampbell (Algoma). This brought up a discussion of the acoustic properties of the chamber. Mr. Whitney said that he could easily imagine that any incorrect reports that had appeared in the public journals might be traced to the difficulties experienced by the reporters in properly hearing the speeches of menibers.

Mr. Fraser said that he apprehended from what Mr. Whitney had said that he considered that the acoustic properties of the building were not what they should be. But the members should bear in mind that this chamber was times the size of the old chamber. larger than the chamber at Ottawa. They should talk a little louder than if they were in a comfortable little schoolhouse, addressing their constituents. They should put a little more volume into their voices, though it was not necessary to raise the pitch. It necessary to do this if they wished to be heard.

Mr. Meredith expressed the belief that the sound was caught under the reporters' gallery. He suggested that something be hung under the reporters' gallery to prevent the sound from getting a lodgment there. -

reporters could easily hear what Meredith said, but they come not always understand what he meant. Mr. Miscampbell (Algoma) complained

that the light in the chamber was destructive to the eyesight. He suggested that colored lights be put in the windows for the protection of the qual organs of the members.

Mr. Fraser said that he was willing that any fair criticism should be made, but he was prepared to join issue with Mr. Miscampbell as to the light. He pointed out the improvement that had on the old been made in this respect chamber.

Dr. Ryerson agreed with Mr. Fraser that the members could make themselves heard by increasing the volume of their

voices. Mr. Bishop expressed the wish that the government would do something wrong, so as to give hon, gentlemen opposite

something to complain about. These bills were read a third time:

Respecting the Standard Life Assurance company-Mr. Meredith.

To amend the real property limitation act.-Mr. Barr (Dufferin.) To amend the act respecting private

lunatic asylums-Mr. Biggar.

To amend the act respecting joint stock companies for supplying cities, towns and villages with gas and water-Mr. Guthrie.

Respecting certain local improvements in the city of Ottawa and for other purposes-Mr. Bronson. The house in committee passed Mr. Gib-

son's motion providing that the Refuge of Our Lady of Charity, Ottawa, should receive government aid, the grant to date back to 1891.

#### JUDGES' SALARIES.

This resolution by the attorney-general was passed through committee :-

"That several of the judges of the supreme court of Ontario have for many years received an annual allowance from this province of \$1,000 heir as and devisee commissioners, and that from 1869 until 1879, inclusive, this allowance had been made to all the judges;

"That divers other important duties have, from time to time, been assigned by the provincial legislature to the judges of the said supreme court of Ontario, outside of litigious matters and the ordinary duties of the said judges, including amongst other particulars duties connected with provincial election trials, estate bills, regulations to govern the practice of the surrogate courts, county courts and division courts, as well as the practice of the respective branches of the supreme court ;

"That, having reference to the salaries of the said judges under Dominion legislation, it is reasonable for this province henceforward to extend to all the said judges the said annual allowance of \$1,000 in acknowledgement of their serand the said matters vices in otherwise, the allowance being deemed to include their services as members of the heir and devisee commission, their travelling expenses in election trials, and all other services which by any past or future provincial legislation they may from time to time be called on to render in addition to their ordinary duties."

The attorney-general's bill respecting certain duties, habilities and fees of sheriffs, was passed through committee, and at 12.45 the house adjourned to resume at 3 o'clock on Menday.

### A MUSKOKA DEPUTATION.

A deputation composed of Lieut.-Col.F.C. Denison, M.P., Dr. Cheeseworth, E. J. Davis, M.PP., and T. E. Moberley waited upon the commissioner of public works yesterday morning, to request that steps be taken to prevent damage to the beaches and cottages on Lake Muskoka caused by the unnecessary detention of logs in Bala river. The commissioner promised to do what he could to remedy the evil.

## ITS WORK IS OVER.

Mr. Awrey's bill granting the right to any city or town in Ontario to grant bonuses for the establishment of smelting works was passed, with some amendments, in the municipal committee this morning.

Mr. McLenaghan's bill providing that county councils might raise sufficient money to purchase toll roads was laid over.

Mr. Ryerson's bill providing that where public school supporters of the preceding year were assessed as supporters of the separate schools notice should be sent to them within fourteen days of such change being made, was passed after it had been amended so as to provide that where separate school supporters of the preceding year were assessed as public school supporters the same notice should be sent them.

Mr. Garrow objected to a clause which had been added to his telephone bill in his absence providing that before exclusive rights could be given to any telephone company the matter should be submitted to the ratepayers. He succeeded in having this clause changed to read that the council by a two-thirds vote could grant such privileges.

The work of the committee was fin-

ished this morning.