

industrial school \$3,000; to build a slide, dam and piers at High falls on the Pigeon river, \$7,500; sanitary improvements at Osgoode hall, \$5,000; Government house equipments, \$3,000; to enlarge dairy building at the Agricultural college, \$3,500; for colonization roads, \$17,100.

EVENING SESSION.

When the house resumed after dinner, Mr. Meredith stated that during his absence in the afternoon Mr. Sprague's bill to amend the act respecting compensation to workmen had been read a third time. He had thought it was understood that this reading was to have been deferred, or he would have been present to take a division thereon. He asked if there was anything in the rules of the house to prevent it being recorded that the third reading was carried on a division, and, upon Mr. Fraser replying in the negative, Mr. Meredith asked that this be done. To this the house agreed, and the clerk was so instructed.

The house then went into committee on the plebiscite bill, Mr. Balfour in the chair. When this section was set forth the form of the question upon which the elector was asked to vote "yes" or "no" was reached, Mr. Meredith objected to the vote being confined to the question of prohibition in the Dominion, but urged that, in addition, the elector should have the opportunity to say if he approved of prohibition in the province, if he did not in the Dominion.

Mr. Waters said that no one could wish one and not the other, and the two questions would only confuse.

Mr. Ross added that the larger included the smaller, and no good could come of the proposed addition.

Mr. Hardy said the only possible reason a man could give for approving of provincial prohibition and disapproving of Dominion prohibition would be the loss of revenue derived from the traffic, but, as two-thirds of that revenue came from Ontario, even that reason was improbable.

Mr. Tait had been associated with temperance all his life, and he knew that what they desired was a straight, clear-cut vote on prohibition, pure and simple, and over as wide an area as possible.

The clause passed unamended, and the bill was reported, with a few important changes.

AID TO RAILWAYS.

Mr. Hardy then moved the house into committee on his resolutions to aid certain railways. The resolutions proposed to grant assistance out of the consolidated revenue fund, as follows:—The Irondale, Bancroft & Ottawa railroad, \$3,000 a mile for 15 miles; the Ottawa, Arnprior & Parry Sound railroad, \$3,000 a mile for 35 miles; Kingston, Napanee & Western, \$3,000 a mile for 30 miles; Central Counties, \$2,000 a mile for 46 miles.

NO AID FOR MINING COMPANIES.

The subject of government aid for blast furnaces, had, Mr. Hardy said, been very strongly presented by influential deputations, and the government had been considerably impressed with the importance of the subject. After looking into the matter, however, they were unable as yet to decide in favor of aiding a smelter in the mining district. A large deputation of Toronto capitalists had also sought aid in establishing a smelting industry, but the difficulty was that if one company were aided others would desire equal recognition and it would be difficult to know where to draw the line. It had not been established clearly, either, that the financial basis of the proposed company was altogether satisfactory. In the nickel industry he pointed out that there were already four or five furnaces at work, and these were originated and managed by private enterprise. Then, while recognizing the importance of developing the iron industry the government could not be expected to do anything to discourage private capitalists. If a company in Toronto were aided a company in Hamilton would naturally expect similar assistance, and it would be exceedingly difficult to know where to draw the line. At the present time the Dominion government was in a state of doubt as to how far they should continue to aid the iron industry, either in the shape of a subsidy or by bounty, and all things considered the provincial government did not feel that they could do anything in the direction asked for.

Mr. Conmee expressed his dissatisfaction with the so-called mining policy of the government. It was too meagre and it was unworthy of the province. He had often admired the minister of crown

lands for his ability in turning a sharp corner, but on the present occasion he thought the turn was altogether too sharp. He regretted to see that in aiding railways no aid was to be given to the Ontario & Rainy River railway.

Mr. Meredith expressed regret that so important a subject had not been introduced earlier in the session, so that it might be carefully considered. He thought the government should have brought down a more liberal policy. Any bonus to a smelting industry would be amply repaid in the general good that would ensue. He saw no harm if in bonusing the iron industry a healthy competition were aroused. If necessary a certain sum for this purpose might be set apart annually. The policy of the government, he considered, was one of delay, so that they might have something to hold up before the party supporters. He moved in amendment that "while this house approves of the grants to the railways named, it regrets that his honor the lieutenant-governor has not been advised to submit for the approval of the house a liberal scheme for the development of the mining resources of the province."

Mr. Fraser moved in amendment to the amendment: "That this house, approving of a reasonable grant to needful and deserving railways, intended to develop the colonization and mining interests of the province, do forthwith resolve itself into a committee of the whole for the consideration of the said resolutions."

Mr. Meredith raised the point of order that an amendment to the amendment was unconstitutional. This contention was opposed by Mr. Fraser and Sir Oliver Mowat, and the speaker ruled in their favor.

Mr. Meredith called for the yeas and nays, and Mr. Fraser's amendment was adopted by a vote of 49 to 33, Messrs. Hardy and Conmee voting with the opposition. The amendment as amended was then put and carried on the same vote, and the original motion as thus amended was approved without a division. The resolutions were then put through the committee stage, and finally concurred in, and Mr. Hardy at once introduced his bill giving effect thereto. This was read a first and second time. In committee Mr. Meredith moved an amendment to expunge a clause in the bill giving the option of substituting half-yearly payments for forty years in lieu of the cash payment, which was voted down, and when the house resumed the same amendment was defeated on a vote of 31 to 52. Mr. Conmee then moved the addition to the motion for the third reading of the following words: "And that it is the opinion of this house that during the recess the government should consider and submit to this house next session some measure looking to the development of the mineral resources of the province," but after a full hour had been consumed in discussing the constitutionality of the amendment the speaker ruled it out of order, and the bill was read a third time and passed.

THE VOTERS' LISTS.

The attorney-general's bill to make further provision as to voters' lists in cities was then considered in committee and passed.

When Mr. Ross' bill providing for a plebiscite on the prohibition question came up for its final reading Mr. Meacham moved an amendment providing for the submission of the question of provincial prohibition to the people, in addition to

the wider question of Dominion prohibition, but this was lost on a vote of 49 to 29; and Mr. McCleary's proposal to take the vote at the provincial instead of the municipal elections shared a similar fate, the numbers being the same. The bill was then read a third time and passed.

At 1.20 this morning Mr. Meredith objected to the house taking up any further business, and an adjournment was accordingly agreed to until 3 o'clock this afternoon. It was expected that yesterday would have seen the business of the session concluded, with prorogation tomorrow, but the formal closing of the session will now be delayed until Monday, or possibly Tuesday, afternoon.

TO LICENSE INSPECTORS.

The following circular letter has been issued by the provincial treasurer to the inspectors under the liquor license laws:

Toronto, May 22.

Sir,—During the present session of the legislature, statements were made in the course of debate accusing license inspectors and commissioners of partisanship in the matter of granting licenses, of unduly influencing hotelkeepers in time of elections, as well as of wilful neglect of duty generally. These statements were for the most part general, indefinite and