

but he thought there was no reason for its general application. He certainly did not think it would be wise to have it operate in rural constituencies. It would introduce a lot of new machinery where there was little need for it.

Mr. Meredith gave an instance of a constituency not 60 miles from Toronto where personators had been brought from Toronto. The act would do good, he thought, in rural constituencies rather than harm, inasmuch as people are far better known there and an honest voter would be in very little danger of unjust suspicion.

Mr. Stratton supported Mr. Meredith's motion, saying that he would like the bill extended to Peterborough.

Mr. White thought the act gave too much power to Police Magistrates. If the law was to pass, however, he thought it should be general.

Mr. Gibson (Huron) thought that the fact that all voters in Provincial elections must be residential rendered the act needless for rural constituencies.

Mr. Awrey thought that rural constituencies close to cities were the ones in which the act would be most necessary.

Dr. Willoughby approved of the bill, but thought it necessary for the rural districts.

Dr. Barr (Dufferin) held that there is very little personation in the country, and thought the act should be restricted to cities and towns.

Mr. W. B. Wood was in favor of extension.

Hon. Mr. Gibson expressed himself as willing to have the act extend to cities, towns and incorporated villages, but wished to have experience of the working of the bill before extending it to the counties. He asked that the section stand.

The Attorney-General pointed out that there would be great difficulty in providing suitable machinery for carrying out the provisions of the bill in rural districts. There was some further discussion and then the committee rose, allowing the clause to stand.

THE LIBEL LAW.

The bill respecting the newspaper libel law was next taken up in committee. Hon. Mr. Hardy remarked that there was a difficulty with regard to having the bill apply to newspapers published outside the Province, and thought that it was best to make the law applicable only to papers in Ontario. Mr. Meredith wanted papers published outside the Province and circulating in it placed on the same basis as those published in the Province. However, the clause was passed as it stood.

The bill was passed through with a good deal of discussion and not a little opposition. Mr. O'Connor led the opposition, attacking nearly every clause. He declared himself specially aggrieved over a remark of one of the papers that "the gallery irreverently accused them (i.e., the members) of speaking disrespectfully of their makers." Several amendments were made. The clause referring to security of costs was changed so that in case the order is made by the High Court it shall be final, while if it is made by a local Judge, an appeal shall lie to the Judge of the High Court sitting in Chambers, whose decision shall be final. The clause setting a three months' limit to actions for libel was amended so that a person bringing suit for a libel published within that period may also cite libels published by the same defendant within the past year. This is intended to cover a case where a person is provoked into litigation by a series of libels. An additional clause was introduced providing that newspapers not published in Ontario, and therefore not benefited by the bill, shall not have any of their present safeguards removed by this bill. The clause providing that the contributor of the item complained of may be made a co-defendant was amended so that it applies to persons who contribute items which they know to be false. The bill was passed with these changes and reported.

The House then rose at 11.05 p.m.

NIAGARA FALLS PARK.

Legislative Chamber, April 12.

The House spent a busy day to-day considering Government bills during the afternoon and in supply during the evening. The bills advanced were those relating to the Nipissing judicial district, voters' lists, Niagara Falls Park, Board of Trade Arbitration Chambers, and barristers and solicitors. There were lively little debates here and there as the bills went their course. Mr. Meredith took a very pronounced stand against the bill to facilitate the conversion of solicitors into barristers. In the evening the House went into Committee of Supply over the education estimates. The Hagarty case came up and took over an hour's discussion before it was disposed of. At adjournment the Attorney-General gave an indication of the approach of the end by moving to have Mondays given to the

Government after private bills were disposed of.

Two new bills were introduced, one by Mr. Dack to amend the assessment act, and one by Mr. White to amend the act respecting executions.

The bill establishing councils of conciliation and arbitration was read a third time.

NIPISSING JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

Government orders came up next, the House spending some time in committee over the Attorney-General's bill to erect Nipissing into a provisional judicial district. Sir Oliver Mowat explained the cause of the step and the nature of the very large tract to be erected into a judicial district. Mr. Meredith made some remarks about the very small amount of judicial work to be done in the district, and instanced the fact that Mr. Barron, the Stipendiary Magistrate there, seemed, in his opinion, to have very little to do beyond to make certain explorations for the Government in the summer. The Attorney-General explained that the intention of the Government was to make Mr. Barron, who is a valuable employee, a Police Magistrate upon the bill coming into force. Mr. Meredith and Mr. Clancy censured the Government for not settling upon the county town of the new district, and Hon. Mr. Hardy asked why the Opposition, who were so anxious for the county seat to be named, did not express their own opinion as to which of the towns should have that honor. Mr. Meredith replied, suggesting that the Government should let the people of the district decide which of the towns in it should have the honor, and not dangle the bait before the various towns prior to the election. The Attorney-General pointed out that the mode of popular election would answer when there were two or more places of equal advantages, but that in the case of Nipissing a large growth in the future must be counted upon, and care must be taken in selecting a seat that it be the one most likely to be the natural capital when Nipissing is inhabited by a large population. Mr. Meredith, however, moved an amendment that unless the Lieutenant-Governor in Council fix upon a county town before June 1 next a vote of the inhabitants of the district shall be taken as to which town shall be the seat. Hon. Mr. Hardy held that this motion showed that it was Mr. Meredith and not the Government which viewed the whole question merely from the standpoint of the approaching election. It was wrong to accuse the Government, after meeting the wishes of the people of the district by providing them with a judicial district, of doing all this merely to gain a party advantage. Mr. Meredith replied, and then the amendment was beaten by a vote of 29 to 21. The bill was then passed.

VOTERS' LISTS.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt's bill to make further provision respecting voters' lists was then considered in committee. A good deal of general discussion arose over the first important section, which provides that the Clerk of every city shall on request furnish the Assessment Commissioner with a list of the voters who have died in the city since the previous January 1, and of those who have died since the last correction of the lists. Several other clauses occasioned some discussion, but no changes of importance were made.

The bill relating to Algonquin Park and the Township of Canisbay therein went through committee without a word of comment.

NIAGARA FALLS PARK.

The Attorney-General moved the second reading of the bill in respect of the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park. The bill gives the Park Commissioners power to issue \$75,000 additional debentures for improvements, and to enter into an agreement with the Niagara Falls Park & River Railway Company to extend the existing electric railway from Chippawa along the bank of the River Niagara southerly to a point on the said river not exceeding two miles from Chippawa. Sir Oliver showed how the revenue had been raised in the past and what changes were proposed as to the future. The management generally had been very successful. There were considerably over half a million of visitors last year, more than twice the number of the previous year. The electric road had been very successful, and proposed double-tracking for this year.

Mr. McCleary (Welland) criticized the management of the park, which he said compared unfavorably with that on the American side. He contended also the park should be free, as was that of the American side, on which millions of money had been spent.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt said the creation of the park had revolutionized the old state of things there. Evils that used to exist in the locality no longer existed. He thought it fair to derive what revenue was possible in a legitimate way from the park, but agreed that it would be desirable if at an early date it would be possible to do away with the toll.

Mr. Meredith objected to the toll, which,