

THE GAS MAINS EXEMPTED.

Mr. Noxon Disagrees With Mr. Massie's Statement as to the Loss on Fibre—More Talk on Registrars.

Legislative Chamber, April 13.

The Assembly spent a very quiet afternoon and adjourned at 6 o'clock. A motion by Mr. A. F. Wood calling for returns as to registry office employees caused some discussion, but otherwise the House was busy considering bills in committee and advancing work on the order paper. The Attorney-General warned the House there would be no early adjournment next Friday.

An unusual number of new bills were read a first time. Dr. Gilmour introduced a bill to amend the municipal act; Mr. Conmee a bill to amend the joint stock companies letters-patent act; Mr. Awrey a bill to amend the Agriculture and Arts Association act, and Dr. McKay a bill respecting assignments of book debts.

Third readings came next. Hon. Mr. Gibson's bill respecting mortgages and sales of personal property was on the list, but some amendments were made to it and it stood. Mr. O'Connor's bill to consolidate the debt of the Town of Warton was passed, with a slight change, and Hon. Mr. Hardy's bill relating to Algonquin Park and the Township of Canisbay therein was given its third reading.

REGISTRY OFFICES.

Under the head of motions, Mr. Clancy wished to bring up his motion that the public accounts for the year 1893 be referred to the Public Accounts Committee, with instructions to call and examine witnesses in relation to all matters affecting or relating to the expenditures in connection with the registry offices in the Province.

Hon. Mr. Hardy pointed out that the Attorney-General was unavoidably absent, and the matter was postponed till Tuesday next, Mr. Hardy promising that the Government would facilitate the summoning of such witnesses as the committee might desire to examine.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Mr. Tait asked the following question:— "Has the Government decided to refuse hereafter the usual grant of thirty cents per day per patient toward the cost of maintenance of charity patients in hospitals in all cases where such patients suffer from diphtheria or typhoid fever? If not, why has an exception been made in the case of the City of Toronto?"

Hon. Mr. Gibson said the Government had not decided to refuse hereafter the usual grant in such cases as suggested. No exception had been made as to Toronto. Application had, however, been made for an order in Council placing in the schedule of hospitals receiving aid under the charity aid act the Isolation Hospital of Toronto, an institution designed for the reception of contagious diseases cases under the provisions of the public health act, and under the control and management of the Local Board of Health. No grants had heretofore been made for such patients isolated as in the present case, and, having in view the possibility of similar applications being extensively made, and also the large amount of hospital aid already granted Toronto, the Government had at first felt itself unable to comply with the application. Subsequently the city authorities had represented that a large proportion of the cases treated in this hospital are ordinary charity cases, which would but for this institution be treated in the General Hospital, and that there was no good ground for distinguishing between hospitals controlled by the Local Board of Health and those otherwise controlled, and that so far as the Province was concerned it was immaterial whether the Isolation Hospital remained as at present or became subject to the General Hospital. Consequently the Government had decided to include contagious diseases hospitals among those entitled to aid under the act, and to consider also the advisability of a modification of the present system as affecting paying patients.

REGISTRY OFFICE EMPLOYEES.

Mr. Wood (Hastings)—Order of the House for a return showing the persons employed in each registration division for the last three years, giving names and date of engagement, length of time employed, character of service, and the amount paid to each person so employed.

In moving this, Mr. Wood stated that, if the statements furnished him were correct, they would go far to discredit the returns made, and even the report of the inspector. He thought that the returns of necessary expenses were frequently swelled by sums allowed by the Registrar to himself for work which he had done.

Hon. Mr. Gibson said he had no objection to the return being ordered. He thought, however, that the municipalities, who had an interest in the matter, would be very likely to prevent Registrars doing such to an undue extent. Mr. Wood, Mr. Meredith and Dr. Willoughby spoke upon the subject, and Hon. Mr. Hardy made some remarks, defending the course of the Registrars. There was some further discussion, and then Mr. Meredith suggested that the motion be made wider in its scope. Rather than continue the discussion upon the question thus extended the debate was adjourned.

OTHER BUSINESS.

A bill to amend the judicature act, by Mr. Guthrie, was read a second time and sent to the Legal Committee, Mr. Hardy remarking that it covered part of the same ground as a bill by the Attorney-General.

Mr. Biggar's bill to amend the assessment act was read a second time and sent to the Municipal Committee. Mr. Stratton's bill to amend the municipal act was similarly treated. Mr. Meredith strongly objected to this latter bill, which increased the power of Municipal Councils to borrow money for school purposes.

Several private bills were put through committee without discussion. The Government bill to amend the registry act was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Gibson moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Ontario game protection act. He explained the changes made, and in connection with the clause relating to permits observed that though the authorities have the power of issuing permits without the payment of fees, yet only two such permits have been issued, in both cases at the request of the Lieutenant-Governor, to oblige guests of his. One clause permitted foreigners who have paid their \$25 license fee to take out of the country the two deer they were allowed to shoot.

Mr. Cleland said that there was a feeling over the Province that the deer-shooting season was too long, and was sorry the bill did not propose to shorten it. He thought the 1st of November was soon enough to start the season. He suggested the change should be made when the bill was in committee.

Mr. Stratton said that in his locality the present dates were favored.

Mr. A. F. Wood said he understood some of the best hunters thought the season none too long now.

Dr. Willoughby thought that if Americans were allowed to take out one deer, instead of two, as the bill proposed, it would be sufficient and the bill improved. Otherwise he approved of the bill.

The Provincial Secretary urged the inadvisability of making frequent changes in the time. The proportion of deer which would be exported would be a very small proportion of those that are slaughtered in the country, and the sending of a few men out in the winter to prevent "crusting" would do more good than stopping the exportation. After some further remarks as to the shooting of ducks by Americans on the Detroit and St. Lawrence Rivers, and the problem of patrolling those rivers, the bill was given its second reading.

The House went into committee on the bill respecting the call of solicitors to the bar. It was very slightly amended, one clause being inserted providing for the passing by the benchers on each application of a solicitor to avail himself of the act.

The House adjourned shortly after 6 o'clock, the Attorney-General warning members to be in readiness to sit next Friday night.