

been appointed on the application of County Councils, and that 28 unsalaried Police Magistrates have been appointed under section 9, R.S.O., cap. 72, this number including several appointed under a previous statute.

A MUSKOKA LICENSE.

Dr. Ryerson asked:—Was a license granted to premises known as the Dorset House, Dorset, Muskoka? Why was it done against the wishes of a majority of the ratepayers, and why were subpoenas not served upon Amos Turnbull and John White in connection with a breach of the license act in which they were stated to be material witnesses?

Hon. Mr. Harcourt replied that no license had been granted to the hotel in question, and that there was no evidence in the department to show whether subpoenas had been served upon the persons mentioned.

RELIEF FOR HEIRS.

Mr. Baxter asked:—Whether it is the intention of the Government, during the present session, to introduce any legislation to provide for the lessening of expenses in connection with the settlement of small estates under wills of deceased persons?

The Attorney-General replied that he understood that the excessive expenses arise from the audit of the executors' accounts. This is not done under any statute, but under rules drawn up by the Judges of the Supreme Court. These provide that the executors must pass their accounts before the expiry of a certain period, usually eighteen months, and are designed to prevent executors from retaining the estates too long in their hands and thereby defrauding the heirs, who, in the case of small estates, are often ignorant persons. But the Attorney-General quite conceded that this provision might result in too great expense for other persons, and said that the Legal Committee had given the subject some consideration and had agreed upon provisions which would reduce the expenses in connection with estates of under \$1,000 by one-half. No provision was made for estates of more than \$1,000, and he agreed that something should be done in that case. The matter had been called to his attention only very recently, and he had been unable as yet to see a complete way out of the difficulty. However, he thought that it would be well that the rules should be suspended except where any of the parties interested called for their exercise. The rules were good, but were too large for the purpose. He could not say that the Government would bring in any legislation this session, but in all probability relief would be extended.

GODERICH POLICE MAGISTRATE.

Mr. Whitney, after asking that two of his motions, one as to the names of specialists granted teachers' certificates in 1893, and the other for a return as to the University scholarship examination at Bowmanville High School in 1893, moved for an order of the House for a return of copies of all correspondence and communications which have passed between the Municipal Council of the Town of Goderich, or an officer or member thereof, or any ratepayer of the said town, and any member or officer of the Government, with reference to the appointment of a Police Magistrate for the said town; and also of all petitions for or against the appointment.

In speaking to this, Mr. Whitney stated that there seemed some friction in the Town of Goderich about the matter. A large portion of the inhabitants did not seem to want the Police Magistrate appointed, and a minority seemed to wish for it. There had apparently been an agi-

tation for the appointment, and despatches had been sent to newspapers intimating that for want of a Police Magistrate the town was in a deplorable condition, law and order being observed in a very lax manner. The Town Council was induced to ask for the appointment, but a counter petition signed by a majority of the ratepayers was sent to the Government, protesting against the appointment. He desired to know all about the circumstances.

The Attorney-General said there was very little correspondence on the subject. There was the original petition asking for the appointment, and again there was a letter saying there was some objection to the appointment. He had never seen the petition against the appointment. There was no other correspondence on the subject. There was no objection, of course, to what there was coming down. After some remarks by Mr. Garrow, the order was passed.

LIQUOR LAW IN RAT PORTAGE.

Mr. Marter moved for an order of the House for a return of copies of all papers, letters, statements and documents in reference to the enforcement or non-enforcement of the liquor license act in the Town of Rat Portage for the years 1891, 1892 and 1893, and up to the present time of the year 1894.

Mr. Marter complained that the information of which he was in receipt was to the effect that the license law was practically not observed at all in Rat Portage, the Sunday observance being very lax, and liquor sold at all hours. The License Inspectors, he understood, were not efficient, and being engaged in businesses in which they were to some extent dependent upon the custom of the hotelkeepers, were therefore unfit for the position. There had been complaints made, but no redress had been forthcoming.

Mr. Conmee stated that he knew all the circumstances in question, and that Mr. Marter was at fault in bringing up in the House matters with which he was imperfectly acquainted. He had heard remarks as to the inefficiency of the license law administration, such as those which Mr. Marter had repeated, and he had on the platform asked that a complaint should be lodged with him, and promised that an investigation should be held. The charge was placed in his hands, he saw that an investigation was held, and the result was that the charge was withdrawn. He defended the License Commissioners as able and reputable officers, and declared that the reports as to the non-observance of the law were exaggerated.

The Attorney-General said that he recollected that during his Rainy River trip a deputation had called upon him at 4 o'clock in the morning, just as he was changing from the steamer to the train, and had presented to him the case which Mr. Marter had mentioned. He thought and said that if the case they stated was accurate it was a very serious condition of things, and on his return mentioned the matter. He had heard nothing more about the affair.

Mr. Whitney aroused much merriment by reading a written complaint from a Mr. Foy, a member of the deputation, to the effect that the members of the deputation had found great difficulty in seeing Sir Oliver on that occasion. It charged that the steamer had been purposely delayed in order to prevent their seeing him, and that when they did succeed in finding him it was only after overcoming the opposition of Hon. Mr. Dryden and Mr. Conmee. Then the Premier had promised an investigation, and that promise had not been kept.

The Attorney-General remarked that he had spoken of the matter on his arrival in Toronto, and that he had heard no complaint, nor anything at all about the matter until Mr. Whitney had read the letter of complaint.

Mr. Conmee said the reason for the non-enforcement of the liquor law in Rat Portage was that the Mayor of Rat Portage, a nominee of the Conservative party, had ordered the police not to enforce it. Up to the time this was done the law had been enforced there. He denied that the deputation had seen him on the night in question, or that he knew of any attempt to prevent them from seeing the Attorney-General. Mr. Marter rejoined that he had the word of several clergymen to the effect that the license law was badly observed in Rat Portage.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt stated that on receiving the intimation he had ordered an investigation, and an official had been sent down to look into the matter; but that Mr. Hogaboom, the maker of the charges, had withdrawn them, and that the matter had then been dropped.

Hon. Mr. Hardy closed the discussion by remarking that the letter of complaint had evidently been written by a wag, and had been read by the greatest wag of the House.

The motion was then passed.

PUBLIC BILLS.

The House then went into committee on Mr. Balfour's bill to amend the street railway act. Mr. Gibson suggested an amendment which would necessitate the re-printing of the bill, when it will be considered again.

Mr. W. B. Wood's bill to amend the general road companies act was put through committee without amendment.

Mr. Sharpe's bill to extend the operation of the woodman's lien for wages act was taken up in committee. It applies to the districts of Algoma, Thunder Bay, Rainy River, Muskoka and Parry Sound.

Mr. Meredith asked why the Ottawa district was not included in the operation of the act.

Mr. Hardy said a large part of the Ottawa district, and that of Nipissing, was provided for, the bill covering Nipissing as soon as it should be a judicial district. The bill generally, however, was intended for the new districts, rather than for counties where judicial machinery existed.

There was some talk over Mr. Conmee's bill to amend the joint stock companies letters patent act by allowing joint stock companies to issue stock at a discount, but the bill was read a second time.

Mr. Dack's bill to amend the municipal act by enabling unincorporated villages to secure fire protection for themselves, just as