

Another Half-hour Sitting at the Queen's Park.

Legislative Chamber, March 18.

A half-hour's session this afternoon resulted in a few questions being answered, an order passed and a few bills advanced a stage. Comparatively few members had got back from their Sunday at home, and the proceedings were brief and formal, no debate occurring on any of the business transacted. The House will likely make up for this tomorrow by a turn at the estimates, with the usual amount of detailed discussion.

On the assembly of the House only one petition was presented, Mr. Marter laying before the House the request of F. Simpson and 400 other fruit-dealers, grocers, etc., that fruits should be graded when packed, and marked according to their class; that fruit baskets be of two sizes only, of five or ten quarts, except strawberry and raspberry baskets, which shall hold not less than one quart each; that vegetables not sold by count be sold by weight only, and that market or fruit inspectors shall have power to examine packages of fruit or vegetables and prosecute offenders.

Mr. Reid's two bills bear on the one subject, his purpose being to amend the law so that incorporated villages shall have the same power as townships with regard to the performance of statute labor. Mr. Whitney's bill is in reference to certain drainage works in Stormont and Dundas Counties, which were started under the old drainage law but have been stopped by the present law. He wishes to have arrangements made so that they can be finished. Dr. Ryerson's bill regarding the factories act is to permit the appointment of a female factory inspector, and his other bill is to cause workmen on Government contracts to be paid the union rate of wages. Mr. Wood's bill is to provide for the cases of transient traders, who, if they happen to come into a town immediate-

ly after the assessment is completed, may at present go sixteen months untaxed. Mr. Davis' bill is a reference to a matter that is agitating the York County Council. The law provides that the Clerk of the Peace is entitled to a certain fee for each voters' list, and the Clerk of the Peace for York County has been taking this to mean the list for each polling subdivision, instead of the list for the whole municipality, to the augmenting of his income. The affair has been going on several years, and the bill is to make clear that the fee is for the whole list only.

THE HOURS OF SALE.

Questions by members followed. Mr. Crawford asked:—"Have municipalities in this Province the power to regulate the hours for the retail sale of liquors by the license-holders therein? What body has such power if not the municipalities?"

Hon. Mr. Harcourt's answer was as follows:—"According to a decision of Chief Justice Harrison, the municipalities have not power to regulate the hours for the sale of liquors in taverns. They may have power in regard to the retail sale in shops. The commissioners have power to regulate the hours in both shops and taverns."

To Mr. Whitney's question as to whether the Government has decided to establish a Normal School in London Hon. Mr. Ross replied that the Government has not decided to establish such a school.

Mr. Howland asked:—"Is it the intention of the Government to introduce an act during the present session amending the Registry act by re-uniting the Toronto Registry Office, and abolishing the office of Registrar of East Toronto?"

Sir Oliver Mowat replied in the negative.

Mr. Howland further asked:—"Is it the intention of the Government to introduce during the present session an act for the prevention of sales of merchants' stocks in trade with intent to defraud creditors?"

Sir Oliver Mowat replied that it was only within the last few days that his attention had been called to the need for such an act, and that he was considering the suggestions made to him.

Notices of motion coming next on the order paper, Mr. Farwell obtained one for a return "showing the cost of the diamond drill, the date when operations were begun with it, and the number of days it has been in operation; the hours of the day it is worked; a statement of the work done and where carried on since its purchase, and the number of men employed in its use, and the rate of wages at which they are engaged."

Finally the item of public bills was reached, and Mr. Garrow's two bills, to amend the municipal act and to amend the Public Schools act, and Mr. Wood's bill to amend the municipal act, were given their second readings and sent on to committee. Mr. Garrow explained that his first bill aimed at a small change with regard to statute labor, and Mr. Wood that his was to give municipalities the power to enforce the payment of commutations for statute labor.

The House then adjourned at 3.30 p.m.