

the County Councils to change the hour of nomination from noon to 1 p.m.

Hon. Wm. Harty presented a petition from the Kingston City Council asking that the trial of actions against municipal corporations for damages for injuries received by reason of non-repair of streets be tried by a Judge without a jury; also one that the fees for services under the city manhood suffrage act of 1894 be defrayed out of the revenue of the Province.

Mr. Little presented a petition from the Simcoe County Council asking that the Government resume control of the Mimico Industrial School; also one praying that in view of "the indiscriminate war of extinction which is being waged against the deer, that the game laws be so amended as to prevent deer-hunting with hounds or other dogs until the year 1900."

WORK FOR THE HOUSE.

Hon. Mr. Hardy introduced his bill providing for the reduction of the number of County Councils.

Mr. Chapple moved the second reading of his bill to amend the municipal act. The motion passed, and this bill is consequently the first to be advanced this step.

Hon. Mr. Gibson laid on the table the public accounts of the Province for the year ending Dec. 31, 1895, a return of copies of all correspondence between the Minister of Education and all other persons with regard to appointments in University College and the School of Practical Science; a return of copies of all correspondence between members of the Government and all other persons with regard to the establishment of a Normal School in London, and a return of correspondence relating to certain acts of the Police Magistrate of Sudbury.

DATE OF THE BUDGET.

Sir Oliver Mowat then intimated that as the public accounts were now before the House, the estimates would be laid before it to-morrow; it was the intention of the Government, he added, that the Treasurer should make his annual financial statement on the following day, Wednesday.

Mr. Marter suggested that Thursday would be better, so as to give a little time in which to examine the public accounts.

Hon. Mr. Hardy replied that this meant a day's further delay, and, in fact, a day longer than was usual. Mr. Marter stuck to his point, however, remarking that there was business set for Wednesday which might take up a good deal of the time. The Attorney-General responded that of course the budget would be taken up after other business had been disposed of, and in response to a further remark by Mr. Marter pointed out that the House would have two days in which to consider the public accounts and one day for the estimates. However, he finally left the matter open.

The House then adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

REDUCING COUNTY COUNCILS.

Hon. Mr. Hardy's bill for reducing the number of County Councillors is a very important measure. The act is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the submission of the question of reducing the number of County Councillors in any county to the electors, and makes provision that in every county where the Council of the county is composed of more than twenty members, and in other counties where the Council is composed of twenty members or less, if the Council by resolution so directs, the Clerk of the county shall, at the general municipal election to be holden in the year 1897, submit to the local electors of every local municipality in the county the question of whether they are favorable to the adoption of the act or opposed thereto. The first twenty-one sections of the act are devoted to the procedure upon taking the vote. Section 15 provides for the submission of the question in any year subsequent to 1897 in which the act is not in force.

Part 2 of the act relates to the constitution of County Councils after the act goes into operation. Section 22 declares that County Councils shall, in counties containing not more than 40,000 inhabitants, be composed of nine members; in counties containing more than 40,000 and less than 60,000, of eleven members, and in counties containing 60,000 or a greater number, of thirteen members. Section 23 provides that nominations shall be made in writing, signed by at least twenty-five municipal electors in the county, and

deposited with the Clerk on or before the 1st day of December. If more candidates are nominated than the number of County Councillors to be elected in the county, notice is to be given by the County Clerk of the nominations made, and this notice is to be sent to the Clerk of each of the local municipalities, together with voting papers, in the form prescribed by the act.

At a meeting of each local Municipal Council, held on the third Monday of January, the Reeve and Deputy Reeve are to fill up and sign the voting papers. Each Reeve or Deputy Reeve is to be entitled to a number of votes equal to the number of County Councillors to be elected, and may give all his votes to one candidate, or may distribute them, as he thinks best. The Clerk of the municipality is to transmit the voting papers to the Clerk of the county, who is to open the packages and count the votes in the presence of the County Judge or Sheriff, or in the absence of both of those officials, in the presence of the County Court Clerk, and is to enter the votes given for each candidate in a book kept for that purpose, and forthwith declare the persons elected who have received the highest number of votes.

The other bill introduced, Mr. Chapple's act to amend the municipal act, provides that the statement of municipal accounts now directed to be made and published annually, on the 15th day of December by the Council, shall be duly audited, and in other ways made of more practical use in acquainting the electors with the condition of municipal finances before nomination day.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The receipts of the Province for the year, as shown by the public accounts brought down this afternoon, were as follows:—

Balance from public accounts, 1894 \$268,578 29

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

From Dominion of Canada—	
Subsidy	\$1,116,872 80
Special grant	80,000 00
Interest on capital held, and debts due by the Dominion to Ontario	262,274 32
Interest on investments....	41,184 74
From Crown Lands Department—	
Crown lands.....	43,583 91
Grammar School lands.....	1,512 43
Railway	718 42
Kent	26,106 12
Woods and forests.....	853,179 88
Miscellaneous	1,047 42
Refunds	927,744 96
Licenses	272,809 12
Law stamps	74,701 00
Algoma taxes.....	2,183 34
Education Department	52,271 63
Succession duties.....	298,824 99
Casual revenue.....	84,799 00
Public institutions—	
Toronto Lunatic Asylum..	38,639 71
Mimico Lunatic Asylum....	1,422 89
London Lunatic Asylum ..	10,870 69
Hamilton Lunatic Asylum ..	11,667 54
Kingston Lunatic Asylum..	6,574 35
Brockville Lunatic Asylum..	1,147 98
Orillia Lunatic Asylum....	3,439 14
Reformatory for females..	3,166 93
Reformatory for boys.....	585 00
Deaf and Dumb Institution ..	125 00
Central Prison industries..	26,395 21

OPEN ACCOUNTS.

Crown Lands Department—	
Clergy lands.....	6,259 60
Common School lands.....	13,942 51
Public works and buildings re capital account—	
Mercer estate.....	65 25
Brewers' licenses.....	19,637 50
Drainage works, rent charges	7,349 41
Drainage debentures.....	40,389 99
Drainage debentures, tile..	8,435 00
Sale of annuities.....	171,520 00

Total receipts.....	\$3,585,300 10
Stationery account, excess of distribution over purchases	202 09
Amount withdrawn from special deposits.....	1,747,371 53
Total	\$5,601,452 01

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR.

The expenditure was as follows:—

Consolidated revenue fund—	
For civil government.....	\$ 244,726 47
Legislation	150,058 67
Administration of justice..	453,564 99
Education	693,042 95
Public institutions, maintenance	799,222 15
Immigration	7,814 86
Agriculture	181,233 11
Hospitals and charities....	190,221 08
Repairs and maintenance, public buildings.....	76,518 14