

tion 4 of the act passed last session and declares that a remainder or reversion shall not be necessary to constitute the relation of landlord and tenant, and makes some provisions simplifying the procedure under the overholding tenants act.

Mr. Chapple's bill to amend the ditches and watercourses act makes provision for the protection as well as maintenance of works constructed under the act.

Hon. Mr. Hardy's bill relating to Crown timber merely makes some few additional provisions for the security of the interest of the Crown in timber on public lands.

RE GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

Sir William Howland, who was Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario for a number of years prior to 1874, appeared before the Select Committee re Government House this morning. Mr. Kivas Tully, the Government engineer, reported that the total cost of the institution up to the end of 1895, exclusive of the Governor's salary, was \$405,813.77. Mr. Haycock's figures were upwards of \$497,000 to the end of 1894, including the salary.

Sir Oliver Mowat was in the chair and examined Sir William at some length. Sir Oliver asked Sir William's opinion as to the desirability of maintaining the institution, to which Sir William replied: "It is a very desirable thing. I think a person occupying that position, representing the Province and the people of Ontario, should be in a position to properly receive and entertain prominent people who come to the city and those of our own people. There is a great advantage in that way. Very few people would be in a position to perform that duty properly. During my time I had Lord Lisgar and the Prince of Wales. There were so many children and others with them that I had to engage another large house to make room for them. Persons such as these," he continued, "should not be sent to a public place. More prominent people had visited Government House in his time perhaps than in any other similar period since its establishment. Many are entertained there who would not have been entertained in any other way."

Sir Oliver—"Do you think any public good arose from it?"

Sir William—"The visitors received more favorable impressions than they otherwise would."

"Do you think the good the public received was commensurate with the expense?"

"I think there was compensation to the country for it."

"Could the entertainment be done with smaller grounds?"

"Some of them could be entertained with smaller buildings, but many of them could not."

In reply to another question, Sir William said he thought the impression made upon visitors at the Government House was a very favorable one towards Canada.

The committee will sit again next Friday.

HAMILTON GAS BILL.

This was another big day for Hamilton in the Private Bills Committee. Mayor Tuckett, fourteen aldermen, the City Solicitor and City Clerk were down to discuss and hear discussed Mr. Middleton's bill respecting the Hamilton Gas Co. This bill proposes to repeal the bill passed in the interest of the company in 1890, which gave them a perpetual charter. The city now claim that the act was passed without their knowledge or consent. Their original charter was granted in 1850, for 50 years. The fight to-day was between the capital invested by the Gas Company, on the understanding that the charter was to be perpetual, and the interests of the city, which were represented by Mr. S. H. Blake, Q.C., and who contend that the charter was in the nature of a monopoly, and that it was granted without their knowledge. Mr. B. B. Osler, Q. C., was present on behalf of the capitalists. Mr. J. T. Small represented the British capitalists. After three hours' debate the committee adjourned, on the understanding that the parties were to meet and endeavor to come to a settlement before the next meeting—next Tuesday.

The bill relating to the town of Sarnia, empowering the town to close Thistle street in the neighborhood of the St. Clair Tunnel, was passed, with the exception of the clause relating to compensation to property owners, which will be settled afterwards.

NOTES.

The report of the Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities upon the hospitals remarks that one more hospital, the General Hospital at Sudbury, has been added to the list of the charities receiving Government aid. Two more, the Berlin-Waterloo Hospital and the Woodstock General Hospital, are applying to be placed upon the list. The grant to hospitals has increased from \$47,823 37 in 1880 to \$110,000 in 1895. The hope is expressed that greater interest may be taken by the municipalities conveniently situated to hospitals in contributing yearly grants towards their maintenance.

Mr. Howland is giving notice of a bill to amend the municipal act. Mr. Reid (West Durham) gives notice of a bill to amend the jurors act.

The Municipal Committee met this morning and passed a couple of bills.

The Municipal Law Committee held their first meeting this morning at 9.30. The meeting was for organization, and Hon. A. S. Hardy was re-elected Chairman. It was arranged that Mr. Hardy's bill respecting City Councils should come up for consideration on Tuesday morning at 9.30.

Mayor Fleming, Ald. Scott and Preston interviewed G. T. R. Engineer Hobson in the Parliament buildings this morning with regard to the difficulties in connection with the Queen street subway. According to the order of the new general manager, all the bridges along the company's lines must be made stronger, and the interview this morning was in regard to the plans for the changes in the subway. The result was that the difficulties will probably be all removed.

At the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee this morning Inspector Christie was present, and in a private way answered a number of questions in regard to the food bought for the London Asylum. He is to appear before the committee next Tuesday for examination in reference to the same matters. Dr. Bryce, Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health, is daily in receipt of letters from all points of the Province approving of the proposed bill for the compulsory inspection of meat and the establishment of abattoirs.