

some minor amendments. Mr. C. 's bill to confirm by-law No. 248 of the Town of Mount Forest was withdrawn. The following private bills were then given their second reading:—

Mr. Magwood—Respecting the railway debenture debt of the Township of Mornington.

Mr. Richardson—Respecting the floating debt of the Village of East Toronto.

Mr. Magwood—Respecting the railway debenture debt of the Township of Elma.

Mr. Stratton—Respecting the Town of Peterboro'.

Mr. Kerns—To enable the trustees of the congregation of Knox Church, Acton, to sell certain lands in the Village of Acton.

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Mr. Meacham asked how many of the 1,342 children who passed the leaving examination in 1895 are this year attending the High Schools of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Ross replied that the question could not be answered without sending to all the High School principals of the Province, which would require some time. Mr. Meacham then withdrew the question.

Mr. Marter asked what was the cost of the late Central Prison inquiry in the matter of Warden Massie's charges? Names of persons paid for services in connection therewith? Nature of service rendered? Amount paid each person so engaged? If any amount is still due, state by whom claimed and what amount.

Hon. Mr. Gibson replied that the only amount paid by the Government was paid for witness fees, which amounted to \$182 75. Foreman Walter Scott had also made a claim for an unstated amount, which was under consideration.

Mr. Whitney asked:—"On what date was Dugald Campbell retired from the position of farmer or assistant farmer at the London Asylum? Was he asked to send in his resignation, and, if so, for what reason? Who was appointed to succeed him?"

Hon. Mr. Gibson replied that Mr. Campbell had retired from the position of assistant farmer on 31st October, 1895, having been asked to send in his resignation by reason of a prolonged illness, during which he failed to satisfactorily perform his duties. No one had been appointed to succeed him, the work having been done by one of the farm hands.

On motion of Mr. Meacham an order of the House was passed for a return showing how many of the children in each city and county who passed the leaving examination in 1895 are now attending the High Schools.

PUBLIC BILLS.

Public bills coming next, Mr. Hobbs moved the second reading of his bill to amend the municipal act. He explained that the bill provided that in cities with a population between 30,000 and 80,000 the Council may by a two-thirds vote before the 1st of May in each year pass a resolution affirming the expediency of a new division of the wards, reducing the number by at least one-third; the election of Aldermen to be for two years; and that in case a petition signed by 300 or more of the resident freeholders the Council may pass the resolution in favor of a new division of the wards, and at the next municipal election submit the question to the electors to be decided by them.

Hon. Mr. Hardy thought some parts of the bill were not practicable, particularly the granting the prayer of 300 petitioners. The bill was, however, given its second reading.

Mr. Hobbs' bills to authorize cities to hold municipal elections on New Year's Day and to amend the Public Libraries act were also given their second reading.

Mr. Paton's bill to amend the municipal act by making it necessary for all licensed auctioneers to be of good character and have premises suitable for the business was given its second reading, being briefly discussed by Messrs. Matheson, Cleland and Hardy.

Mr. McLean's bill to amend the election act was withdrawn.

Mr. Flatt's bill respecting road companies was read a second time, as was also Mr. Robillard's bill to amend the assessment act.

Before adjournment Mr. Marter asked when the evidence in the Massie matter could be expected.

Hon. Mr. Gibson replied that the evidence was being copied out. It occupied about 1,000 pages of foolscap paper.

The House adjourned at 4 p. m.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The Attorney-General introduced to-day a bill respecting travelling shows, circuses and other like exhibitions. The bill prohibits the exhibition of travelling menageries, circuses, wild west shows and other shows of that kind without a license having been obtained for that purpose from the Provincial Treasurer. The sum of \$50 per day is to be paid for every day during which the show is licensed to be exhibited. It is made the duty of the Provincial detectives to be present at every place at which the show is to be exhibited, to see that the law is obeyed and to protect the public from fraud and imposture. The act also provides that Dominion and Provincial detectives and constables are to have free access to every menagerie, circus or other like show, and to every horse-race, agricultural, horticultural and industrial exhibition, to the grounds, tents and buildings in which the shows, races and exhibitions are held and every part thereof.

The Attorney-General brought down to-day a bill to amend the judicature act and the law relating to the Superior Courts. This act contains a number of amendments made in anticipation of the revision of the statutes. Among other things, it is provided that all actions against municipal corporations in respect to injuries sustained through non-repair of streets, roads or sidewalks shall hereafter be tried by a Judge without a jury, and it enables peace officers against whom actions are brought to have the same security for costs as Police Magistrates or Justices of the Peace.

The Attorney-General is introducing a bill to correct a clerical error in the debentures registration act, which amends section 4 of that act so as to make the word "holders" mean "debenture holders."

The Attorney-General's bill respecting bills of sale and chattel mortgages in unorganized territories makes provision for the place of registry and the time of registration in Algoma, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Rainy River and Haliburton.

The Attorney-General is also bringing in a bill respecting fraud by debt collectors. It imposes a penalty of \$20 for every day upon which the offence is committed of sending out notices or forms in imitation of the forms appended to the Division Courts act or calculated to induce the persons receiving the same to believe that they are processes issued within the Division Court.

The Attorney-General is further introducing a bill respecting Surrogate Courts, which enables Surrogate Courts, where the estate is less than \$1,000, to remove an executor or administrator. It also provides that the executor of the estate shall not, by virtue of such executorship, be an executor of the estate of which the testator is appointed executor. The act further repeals the provision which makes County Judges ex-officio Judges of the Surrogate Court, but the repeal does not affect Judges heretofore appointed.

Hon. Mr. Gibson's bill respecting Houses of Refuge provides that where the amount granted by the Government towards the establishment of a House of Refuge has been less than \$4,000, a further grant, not to exceed with that already made the sum of \$4,000, may be made upon the acquisition of land or the erection of further buildings.

A CIVIC BILL.

Mr. Marter introduced to-day a bill known as the cities municipal act. It authorizes the Mayor and Chairman of the Finance Committee to sit with the Public School Board, the High School Board and the Public Library Board while they are preparing their estimates. It applies to cities of one hundred thousand inhabitants, and enables such cities to maintain public lavatories and other conveniences, and also enables the Council of any municipality to pay rewards for the discovery and apprehension or conviction of impersonators.

Mr. Marter's other bill, to amend the registry act, is to prevent any plans in which roads are laid out being accepted by the Registrar unless the consent of the proper Municipal Council is registered therewith.

A YORK DEPUTATION.

This afternoon a County of York deputation waited upon Hon. Mr. Hardy with reference to some changes in the assessment act which the Council is