

to the whole amount due the legal rate of interest, and where the taxes have been payable by instalments and a percentage has been added by reason of default in payment of any instalment, the Treasurer is to add to the balance remaining unpaid on the first day of May the legal rate of interest, less what has been already added by reason of such default. It gives the Council power to pass by-laws for taking the assessment at any time prior to the 30th of December, but they may fix prior dates for the return of the rolls for each ward or any subdivision thereof, the rolls being returnable on the said date. It makes provision for the sitting of the Court of Revision for each ward or subdivision as soon as the roll is made up, and the Judge is to hear the appeals from the Court of Revision from time to time throughout the year, and the assessment so made may be adopted by the Council of the following year as the assessment roll on which the rate of taxation for the following year is to be levied.

Hon. Mr. Ross has introduced a bill to improve the laws respecting public libraries. This bill makes some changes in the amount of the grant to public libraries. It provides that in the case of conviction of crime, insanity or absence from meetings without authority the office of trustee is to become vacant. It enables municipal and school corporations to contribute to libraries, and validates sales and mortgages made by Mechanics' Institutes.

Mr. Reid (Durham) is bringing in a bill to amend the jurors act, which provides that jurors at inquests are to be paid the sum of 50 cents where the inquest does not last more than four hours, and \$1 for every day they attend where the inquest lasts more than four hours.

Mr. Richardson's bill to amend the municipal act provides that where Councils are required by law to establish police offices, the same are to be provided with all necessary and proper accommodation of fuel, light and furniture.

The Attorney-General's bill respecting high and county constables consolidates the law relating to constables, and makes them liable to inspection and suspension by the inspector of legal offices for misconduct. It enables advances to be made out of amounts coming to them, pending the passing of accounts by the Board of Audit.

PRIVATE BILLS COMMITTEE.

At the Private Bills Committee this morning the Aqueduct bill received rather rough handling. Mr. E. A. Macdonald represented the company and City Solicitor Caswell the city. The net result was that the committee expressed its determination to allow no change so far as the City of Toronto was concerned; and accordingly some two-thirds of the bill went out. Some additional bonding and mortgaging powers are all that is left of the bill.

The first sections of the bill on which the committee fell were those allowing the company to acquire and reclaim marsh and other lands, establish fish hatcheries, deal in fishing and boating privileges, and go into the ice business; all these were struck out; the only addition to the powers of the company permitted is one to receive money and other grants from the Dominion Parliament.

The sections relating to the company's mortgaging powers met with better luck. Sub-section A of section 3 of the bill, allowing mortgaging of the company's property, franchises, agreements, tolls and revenues, was passed. So was section B, providing that any such mortgage should be a first charge on the property so mortgaged; but a further provision that no chattel mortgage should apply to such property, to the prejudice of the holders of such mortgages, was struck out. Sub-section C provided that the holders of bonds or debentures secured by such mortgage would, if they foreclosed, organize a new company with the same powers as the present one. "It is most unusual for a company to provide for its own funeral," observed Hon. Mr. Gibson; and the sub-section passed with a few changes of form.

Section 4, allowing agreements between the company and municipal councils as to the use of streets and public places, was allowed to stand, a sub-section providing that such agreements if for no fixed term should be deemed to be of indefinite duration being struck out.

Five consecutive sections, Nos. 5, 6,

7, 8, and 9, then went by the board. Section 5 was to repeal section 6 of the 1894 act, relating to the first meeting of the directors; section 6 was to make the preferred stock \$6,000,000 instead of \$12,000,000 and the common stock \$14,000,000 instead of \$8,000,000; section 7 was to allow common stock to be bought in by payment of the amount paid or accredited on it instead of at par value; section 8 was to allow an increase of common stock upon a decrease of preferred stock; section 9 related to the disposal of stock. Section 10, relating to by-laws passed by shareholders, was agreed to, but section 11, relating to arbitrations in the taking of lands, was expunged.

Section 12, which is to make certain provisions of the municipal arbitrations act apply to the company coincident with the sections of the railway act, under which the company is to operate, was held over for consideration, the Chairman remarking that he was not inclined to favor it, but would think the matter over.

Sections 13, 14 and 15, relating to expropriation powers, were struck out, and section 16 was amended, so that the company must spend \$200,000 in the first year and \$500,000 within three years of the passing of the act, or cease to possess its charter.

The final clause, which was an attempt to repeal the clause in the 1894 act preserving the rights of the city's waterworks, was struck out.

THE LONDON ASYLUM.

Mr. Robert Christie, Inspector of Asylums, appeared before the Public Accounts this morning, and was examined by Mr. Matheson and Dr. Willoughby as to the value of produce raised on the London Asylum farm, also the amount purchased to feed the stock. There were about 68 head of horses and cattle on the farm, to feed which about \$4,000 worth of fodder was purchased. This, Mr. Christie thought, was not too much, as there was no pasture for them, and they had to be kept in the stable the year round, while a great deal of the produce raised on the farm was used by the patients as food. Warden Lavelle of Kingston Penitentiary was, on motion of Mr. Marter, requested to appear before the committee on Thursday to give evidence re the purchase of supplies for that institution, and that he bring with him accepted tenders, if any, for the years 1894 and 1895.

SOME OTHER BILLS.

In addition to the aqueduct a number of Hamilton bills were considered. Mr. Middleton's new Hamilton Gas Light Company bill, drawn up according to the agreement recently reached, was passed through; his bill respecting Hamilton Beach was, after a good deal of discussion, withdrawn. Mr. Balfour's bill respecting the liability of the municipalities of Tilbury North and Tilbury West, in respect to the Government drainage works, Mr. McKee's bill to incorporate the Leamington Beet Sugar Company (Ltd.), and Mr. Loughria's bill to confirm by-law No. 46 of Sudbury were passed with amendments.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Flatt—Bill to facilitate the purchase of toll roads.

Mr. St. John—Bill to regulate the overcrowding of street railway cars; also bill to authorize police constables to take bail; also bill to amend the act respecting Justices of the Peace.

Mr. Bronson—Bill to amend the electric railway act, 1895.

Mr. Meacham—Bill respecting the assignment and attachment of the salaries of public employees.

Mr. Richardson—Bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—Bill to amend the registry act.

Mr. Reid (Durham)—Bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Bronson—Bill to amend the railway act of Ontario.

Mr. Truax—Bill to amend the act respecting the office of Sheriff as to office hours.

NOTES.

Mr. D. McNish introduced to-day an Elgin County deputation to two members of the Government. The deputation consisted of Messrs. Frank Sheppard, Reeve of Port Stanley; D. McIntyre, Reeve of Yarmouth; J. Steele, Reeve of Southwold; Frank Hunt, Deputy Reeve of Southwold; Donald Turner, ex-Warden of Elgin, and K. W. Mackay, Clerk of Yarmouth Township. They first called on Mr. Ross,