

act incorporating the Pembroke Southern Railway Company; Mr. Robertson's, amending the act incorporating the Grand Valley Railway Company; Mr. Magwood's, respecting the railway debenture debt of the Township of Elma; Mr. Stratton's, respecting the Town of Peterboro'; Mr. Stratton's, amending the acts relating to the Land Security Company, and Mr. Kerns', enabling the trustees of Knox Church, Acton, to sell certain land.

Mr. Miscampbell had a question as to the number of officials employed in the Department of Agriculture, and as to whether they were graduates of the Agricultural College. Hon. Mr. Dryden gave him the list, showing that there are three officials—Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister and Secretary of the Bureau of Industries; Mr. W. B. Varley, clerk and Minister's secretary, and Mr. W. J. Gray, clerk in mailing department. Their salaries together amounted to \$4,000. None of these were graduates of the Agricultural College, their duties not pertaining to the practice of agriculture. Mr. Dryden added the names of the eight officials of the Bureau of Industries; their salaries amount to \$8,300 and their work is purely clerical, their training being such as to properly qualify them for it.

Mr. Haycock had a question as to the number of teachers possessing certificates granted for successful teaching and as to the method followed in granting such certificates. Hon. Mr. Ross replied that an average of two or three such certificates are granted every year. They are granted on the recommendation of a Public School Inspector after a number of years' teaching on departmental certificates.

In reply to Mr. Marter, Hon. Mr. Hardy said that Basil Paton was the temporary agent of the Crown Lands Department at Killarney. He was appointed in March, 1895, as a resident representative of the department, as there were a large number of squatters in the neighborhood. He received no salary, however.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Gibson, who acted for Mr. Meredith, the T. H. & B. bill was referred back to the Private Bills Committee for further consideration.

A couple of bills—Mr. Biggar's, to have Sheriffs' offices in cities close at 1 p.m. in July and August, and Mr. Ferguson's, to extend the operations of the Lord's Day act to farmers—were given their second reading without debate.

ASSESSING VACANT LOTS.

Mr. German then moved the second reading of his bill to amend the assessment act by extending the operations of the act passed last session respecting the assessment of vacant lands in cities, and by correcting a clerical error in that act. He stated that his reason for bringing in the bill was that the spirit of the act of last session had not been observed in Toronto. He alluded to the low prices of land prevailing now, and said that land was often assessed at so high a rate that at sales it could not bring the amount of the taxes. If the assessors of the city would not assess fairly the Legislature should force them to do so.

Mr. Crawford opposed the bill, remarking that the bill was promoted by the boomsters whose operations had produced the depression Mr. German had deplored. He strongly opposed their being granted this additional privilege, and pointed out that this year Toronto has reduced her assessment by about \$4,000,000. The city and the Assessment Commissioners had behaved well. The bill if passed would affect the city to the extent of about \$1,250,000.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said that in so far as the bill sought to correct a clerical error in the act of last year it might be passed, but as for making a further change he was not prepared to support it. Mr. German would gain nothing by pressing this part of his act.

Mr. Howland explained at some length his stand when the act of last session was passed, contending strongly that the contention which he had put forward then had been proved to be correct. He opposed the bill strenuously, holding that land should be assessed at what it was worth, and that men holding land for speculative purposes should not oblige men who occupied their land to pay their taxes.

Mr. Marter complained of the discourtesy shown to the Toronto members in not asking any of them to bring the bill in, when it affected Toronto so vitally, and strongly opposed it.

Dr. Ryerson expressed his concurrence in the stand taken by his colleagues.

Mr. German proposed that the bill go to committee, so as at all events to have the clerical error corrected. Mr. Howland objected to this. Hon. Mr. Hardy observed that the error neutralized the clause, and it looked as if there would have to be a vote. However, Mr. Marter agreed to the bill going to committee on the understanding that only the part relating to the clerical error should stand.

CLEARING THE ORDER PAPER.

Mr. German's bill respecting the admission to the practice of medicine in Ontario of graduates of the British medical schools was sent to a special committee, which will be named, after a discussion in which Dr. Ryerson, Dr. Willoughby, Mr. St. John, Mr. McKay (Victoria), Dr. Meacham, Hon. Mr. Ross and others took part.

Mr. Chapple's bill to amend the ditches and watercourses act was given its second reading. Two bills, to amend the registry act, Mr. Marter's and Mr. McDonald's, were sent to the Legal Committee. Mr. Marter's was

to protect municipalities in the filing of plans, and Mr. McDonald's was to oblige the mortgagees to bear the expense of registering the discharge. Hon. Mr. Gibson was doubtful as to the advisability of both these bills, but sanctioned their going to committee. Mr. St. John's bill to amend the assessment act with regard to arrears of taxes; Mr. St. John's bill to amend the municipal act, providing for the regulating of pedlars; Mr. St. John's bill to amend the registry act with respect to payment by municipalities for searches; the bill by Mr. Reid (Addington), respecting the fees paid to jurors in inquests; Mr. Richardson's bill respecting the liability of Town or City Councils for police office buildings, and Mr. Marter's bill empowering the Mayor and Chairman of the Finance or Executive Committees in cities of over 100,000 to sit for the discussion of estimates upon the Public School, High School and Public Library Boards, were all sent to committee.

Private bills came next. Mr. German's bill respecting the London Street Railway; Mr. Blezard's, amending the act incorporating the Ontario, Belmont & Northern Railway Co.; Mr. Garrow's, enabling Thomas Henry Lewis to practise dentistry; Mr. O'Keefe's, respecting the City of Ottawa, and Hon. Mr. Harcourt's, authorizing the Commissioners of the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park to grant certain lands to the Clifton Suspension Bridge Company, were passed through committee. Second readings were given to Major Hiscott's bill incorporating the Lincoln Radial Electric Railway Company; Mr. Middleton's, respecting the Hamilton Gas Light Company; Mr. Loughrin's, confirming by-law No. 46 of Sudbury; Mr. Biggar's, respecting the Town of Sarnia; Mr. Richardson's, respecting the floating debt of the Village of Markham; Mr. Biggar's, consolidating the floating debt of Trenton; Mr. Pardo's, respecting certain school moneys of Chatham; Mr. Farwell's, relating to the Sault Ste. Marie & Hudson Bay Railway; and Mr. Pardo's, incorporating the Chatham City & Suburban Railway Company.

The House adjourned at 5.45 p.m.

SUNDAY BURIALS.

Messrs. Richard Reynolds, James Stewart and Josiah Rogers composed a deputation, representing the Citizens' Committee, who waited on the Attorney-General this afternoon to urge for a change in cemetery regulations. As it now is, the burying ground trusts will not permit bodies to be buried on Sunday, except in cases of contagious diseases and under a doctor's certificate. This the deputation claimed to be a hardship where the death occurred on a Friday, necessitating embalming. Sir Oliver agreed with the deputation on that point, but said it was now too late in the session to introduce any legislation to remedy it. He promised, however, to give early consideration at the next session.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

The report of the Department of Immigration shows that 5,386 immigrants settled in Ontario, a decrease of 582 from 1894 and 1,185 from 1893. The statistics show only those arriving at Halifax and Quebec, and those who arrive at Montreal coming by way of the United States; but it is believed that the number of those coming into Ontario from New York by ports other