

question; it became known to-day that an arrangement is possible which, if carried through, will give this much-debated topic its quietus.

On the opening of the House the following third readings were passed:—

To amend the public lands act—Mr. Hardy.

To amend the Algonquin National Park act—Mr. Hardy.

To make further provision respecting mines and mining—Mr. Hardy.

To provide for the inspection of meat and milk supplies of cities and towns—Mr. Harcourt.

To amend the act respecting voters' lists in unorganized territories—Mr. Ross.

#### MANUFACTURING PULPWOOD.

Hon. Mr. Hardy then moved that, subject to the provisions of any act which may be passed by the House during the session, the House approve of the agreement as to the establishment of a pulpwood manufactory at Sault Ste. Marie between the Province and George Cianet and James Whalen of Port Arthur, and T. L. Bray of Wolseley, Assiniboia. The agreement is for 21 years, Mr. Hardy stated, and in reply to a question by Col. Matheson he stated that the privileges enjoyed by the company are to extend over a district having a radius of 40 miles from the factory, and not over the entire unorganized territories. After a brief debate the motion passed.

The House then went into concurrence, and, after spending about half an hour therein, went into Committee of Supply. The item taken up was that of miscellaneous votes, and lively discussions took place on the appointment of a Provincial Highway Commissioner at \$1,500 salary, and on the expenditure of \$2,500 for the Western Dairy School. The appointment of the former was criticized by the Opposition, and Col. Matheson led a rather fierce attack on the Algoma farm. Mr. Conmee stoutly defended it, and Mr. Ross gave an excellent exposition of the principles of advance and development which characterize the course of the Government in regard to the agricultural interests of the Province, and a defence of the policy of improving the roads. Mr. Dryden described the excellent work done by the pioneer farm, and spoke in eulogistic terms of the agricultural possibilities of the Rainy River district. Mr. Haycock was in favor of leaving the matter of road improvement to the local authorities, and adverse to the appointment of a salaried official. The vote finally passed.

#### BILLS ADVANCED.

Before adjournment the House spent a short time in advancing private bills. The following bills were passed through committee:—

Respecting the Town of Sarnia—Mr. Biggar.

Respecting the Hamilton Electric Radial Railway Company—Mr. Middleton.

Respecting the Municipality of Oliver—Mr. Conmee.

The aqueduct bill was referred back to the Private Bills Committee for further consideration. Mr. Howland opposed the second reading of Mr. Conmee's bill respecting the Port Arthur Water, Light & Power Co. The by-law which it legalized had not been passed by a proper vote of the rate-payers, he said, and the bill was in this respect a violation of the spirit in which the House approached municipal matters. Mr. Conmee defended the bill, and Hon. Mr. Gibson, interposing, suggested a compromise by which the bill might be altered so as to give the town power to pass such a by-law. Both parties agreed to this, and on motion of Mr. Conmee the bill was referred back to the Private Bills Committee.

Mr. St. John's bill to authorize police constables to take bail was given its second reading, and Hon. Mr. Hardy's bill to amend the municipal arbitrations act was passed through committee. Hon. Mr. Hardy's bill respecting the estates of insolvent deceased persons was also passed through committee; and second readings were given to Mr. O'Keefe's bill to amend the municipal act, and Mr. Taylor's bill to amend the municipal act.

The House then adjourned at 6.25 p. m.

#### THE PASS QUESTION.

On Saturday a conference was held at the Parliament buildings between

Hon. Mr. Hardy and Hon. Mr. Ross, as representatives of the Government, and Messrs. Power and McNicol, as representatives of the G.T.R. and C.P.R., respectively, with reference to the pass question. A scheme was suggested which both parties appeared to find satisfactory; it was that the Government divide equally between the two railways the sum—about \$2,500—which they now pay as mileage to the members, and that in return for this the railways issue special members' tickets—not a pass—good all the year round, to the members. Both Mr. Power and Mr. McNicol, it is understood, expressed themselves as being in favor of this plan, but had not authority definitely to close the agreement, and will lay it before their respective chiefs. The plan will probably meet with general acceptance; Mr. Haycock is understood to be in favor of it, and the feeling in support of it is general.

#### COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

A deputation of members of the York County Council waited on the Government this afternoon respecting a clause in Hon. Mr. Hardy's municipal bill debarring members of local municipalities from having seats on County Councils, which they wished withdrawn. The deputation consisted of Messrs. W. J. Hill, Reeve of York; J. D. Evans, Reeve of Etobicoke; Geo. High, Reeve of Vaughan; Henry Cane, Reeve of Newmarket; Joseph Davis, Reeve of North Toronto; William Pugsley, Reeve of Richmond Hill, and C. C. Robinson, County Solicitor. Mr. John Richardson, M.P.P. for East York, introduced the delegation to the Cabinet. Mr. Evans was the only member that demurred from the request of the deputation.

#### LEGAL COMMITTEE.

Hon. Mr. Gibson presided at a thinly-attended meeting of the Legal Committee this morning. Mr. Howland's bill to amend the act to facilitate the conveyance of real estate to married women, Mr. Garrow's bill respecting disputes concerning boundary lines, Mr. Carnegie's bill to extend the workmen's lien for wages act, Dr. Ryerson's bill respecting voters' lists in certain cities, Mr. Reid's (Durham) bill to amend the jurors act, and Mr. Ferguson's bill to amend the act to prevent the profanation of the Lord's Day were passed. The last bill was passed on the understanding that it will be debated in the House.

#### GOVERNMENT HOUSE COMMITTEE

Sir Oliver Mowat presided at the meeting of the Government House Committee this morning. Mr. McNish brought in the report of the sub-committee, consisting of himself and Mr. Howland, which was appointed to look into the history and present position of Government House. The report stated that a number of real estate men had been interviewed on the subject of the sale of the site of the present house. Mr. Robert Jaffray's opinion was given in full, its effect being that there is great depression in land in the intermediate districts between the shopping centres and the residential parts of the city, and that the land is at present practically unsalable. Mr. Jaffray's opinion was approved by all the other experts who had been questioned. The sub-committee accordingly reported that the land could hardly be sold at present, and that, in view of the arrangements which have recently been made, whereby the annual charge for repairs will be greatly lessened, the House will give full value for the outlay upon it. The sub-committee further recommended the commutation of many of the services of the house, such as fuel, lighting, water, etc., the Lieut.-Governor and his staff thus to be given charge of the management.

Sir Oliver Mowat suggested that the committee had hardly time to consider such a large question, and this view was shared by the entire committee, which agreed to let the matter lie over till next session. Mr. Haycock suggested that the committee's report to the House should contain the observation that it felt that the expenses should be materially reduced, so that in case of a change of Lieut.-Governors the incoming officer would have fair warning. It was finally decided to adjourn until to-morrow to prepare the report to the House.

#### BILLS INTRODUCED.

Hon. Mr. Gibson's bill, introduced to-day, respecting building societies, prohibits permanent building societies