

Bill, for an amendment to the general road companies act.

Mr. O'Keefe—From Ottawa City Council, for legislation authorizing the corporation to provide for one-third of the construction of permanent roadways, and to amend the waterworks act.

Mr. Conmee—From Edward Spencer Jenison, for legislation empowering the petitioner to improve the water privilege at the Ecarte Rapids and Kakabeka Falls, on the Kaministiquia River.

Mr. St. John—From the Aqueduct Construction Co., for legislation to change the name to the Ontario Aqueduct & General Construction Co., and from the Georgian Bay Ship Canal & Power Aqueduct Co., for an extension of its borrowing powers.

PURCHASED BY TENDER.

In answer to Mr. Miscampbell, Mr. Davis said that the flour purchased for the Orillia Asylum for the years 1896 and 1897 was by tender. The samples of flour called for and submitted by tenderers were tested by an expert both as to color and strength. In 1896 the following persons tendered at the prices stated per barrel in bags:—Wm. Ryan, \$3 50; M. McLaughlin, Toronto, \$3 82 1-2; Samuel Lukes, Bradford, \$3 60; A. Moyes & Co., Listowel, \$4 20; P. McIntosh & Son, Toronto, \$3 60; D. C. Thompson, Orillia, \$3 23; George Vick, Orillia, \$3 07; W. H. McDougall, Alliston, \$4 32. The tender of D. C. Thompson was accepted, the expert test showing it was the lowest tender, strength and color considered. In 1897 the following persons tendered at the prices stated per barrel, in bags:—Geo. Vick & Sons, Orillia, \$4 55; D. C. Thompson, Orillia, \$4 33; Hunt Bros., London, \$4 62; Wm. H. McDougall, Alliston, \$4 70. D. C. Thompson's tender was accepted, being the lowest tender, strength and color considered, as well as the lowest upon the face of the tender.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Hon. Mr. Gibson introduced a bill respecting the incorporation and regulation of joint stock companies. The measure amends and consolidates the joint stock companies letters patent act, and makes uniform provisions for companies incorporated under special acts or under other acts, as well as for those incorporated under the joint stock companies letters patent act.

Mr. Garrow brought in a bill to amend the consolidated municipal act of 1892. The bill proposes to amend section 342 of the municipal act, to enable municipalities to pass by-laws for the construction of electric lights, making the debt contracted therefor payable in 30 years, and confirming such by-laws where heretofore passed if otherwise valid. It enables municipalities by the same by-law to provide for constructing gas, electric lights and water works.

PENALTIES FOR DEFAULT.

Mr. Dryden introduced a bill to further improve the act respecting the Department of Agriculture. It provides for enforcing the penalties requiring municipalities to make returns to the Bureau of Industries, by providing that the person designated by the Minister may go into the municipality and make necessary searches and returns if the municipal officers make default.

The Minister of Agriculture also presented a bill to further improve the trades disputes act. It provides that if either side fails to nominate a member of the Council of Arbitration the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may fill the vacancy. It imposes the duty upon the Mayors of cities and towns of informing the registrar under the trades disputes act of any strikes or lockouts as they occur or when they are anticipated, and provides that the Council of Arbitration shall thereupon place themselves in communication with both parties, with a view to amicable settlement. The bills were read a first time.

Mr. Hardy's bill respecting wages and the estates of deceased persons was read a second time.

In reply to a question by Dr. Willoughby, the Premier stated that he understood the report of the commissioners on the East Northumberland registry office had been handed in, but he had not yet seen it.