

the Auditor of their appointment, giving him their full name and postoffice address, and the Auditor is to report to the municipality and to make such recommendations as may seem to him to be necessary for the due carrying out of the law. It is to be the duty of the members to see that the act is duly carried out. The expenses of an inquiry made by the Auditor are to be paid by the municipality to the Provincial Treasurer when the Auditor personally conducts the inquiry, or to the person deputed by him in other cases. The Auditor is to be paid by salary. He is to report annually upon the number and character of the investigations made by him, and as to any changes in the rules or law which he may consider advisable. Every bank or company in which the Treasurer of a municipality or School Board has deposited moneys as such Treasurer is to state the balance in the hands of the bank or company at any time, when requested to do so by a member of the Council or School Board, and shall quarterly, on the first days of January, April, July and October in each year, deliver to the head of the municipality or Chairman of the School Board a statement showing the balance of such Treasurer's account at the close of business on the last day of the preceding month and the statement is to be read at the next regular meeting of the Council or School Board.

Every mortgagor or other person liable for the payment of moneys secured by mortgage by or held by municipalities on the 31st day of December is to deliver to the head of the municipality a statement of the amount remaining unpaid upon such mortgage on that date, and such statement is to be laid before the Council at its next regular meeting.

The Treasurers of municipalities and School Boards are to keep all moneys held by them as such entirely separate from their own moneys, and are to deposit the same to a separate account, which shall show that the money so deposited is the money of such municipality or School Board. The bill was given its first reading.

Mr. [Name] also introduced a bill, which was read a first time, to amend and [Name] the acts relating to the administration of justice in those portions of the Province which are outside of county organization. This act regulates the sittings of the courts, the powers of District Courts and Judges, the legal officers, Division Courts, and other matters connected with the administration of justice in the districts, and is largely a consolidation and revision of former enactments, made with a view to uniformity in the various districts and necessitated by the changes which have taken place from time to time as new districts were created.

PETITIONS.

The following unusually large number of petitions were presented to the House:—

Mr. Kidd—From the County of Carleton, asking for amendments to the general road companies act by which the Government would grant 25 per cent. of the cost of all roads purchased within the next three years.

Mr. Miscampbell—From the Town of Penetanguishene, asking for legislation to confirm a by-law guaranteeing the payment of Separate School debentures.

Mr. [Name]—From the Town of North Toronto, praying for legislation to [Name] by-laws relating to the reduction of the number of Councillors and local improvements, for permission to receive from the County Council \$800 per year towards the maintenance of Yonge street, for permission to extend the waterworks system and to use the sinking fund for that purpose, for permission to aid any street railway company running into and from Toronto, and to receive an assignment from the County of York of all their rights over the Metropolitan Street Railway on Yonge street, and for other purposes.

Mr. [Name]—From T. M. Kirkwood and [Name], for leave to incorporate the Mineral & Timber Electric Railway Company, with power to operate a railway from a point between Chelmsford and Surgeon Falls north to Wahnapiatae Lake, and south to a point between Killarney and French River.

Mr. St. John—For the incorporation of portions of York and Etobicoke Townships into a separate township, to be called "Humber."

Mr. Pardo—From the Chatham City

& Suburban Railway Company, asking for an extension of two years of the time within which construction must be finished, in view of a proposed extension of the line.

Mr. Richardson—From the Township of York, asking, besides a number of minor matters, for an extension of time for the payment of the debentures on school sections 26 and 27, for authority to appoint an auditor to audit the non-resident lands, and for permission to receive from the county an assignment of all rights over electric railways so far as they are operated within the township.

Mr. Kerns—From the County Council of Halton, for amendments to the general road companies act.

Dr. Ryerson—From the City of Toronto, asking for an amendment to the act giving permission to extend Gladstone avenue. As the city's private bill was introduced it gave the right to all residents on upper Gladstone avenue to bring an action against the city in respect to the rates thereon. It is now asked that this right be given only to those who apply for relief. Also to relieve the residents of Hamilton street of one-half the street extension rates.

The same petition prayed for the confirmation of any agreement which may be arrived at between the Mayor of Toronto and the Toronto Railway Company in regard to the extension of the railway to the Island, the operation of the cars upon the Lord's day and the other proposed civic legislation.

Mr. W. R. Beatty—From the municipality of Sundridge, for amendments to the act respecting back taxes.

Mr. McLean—From the Napanee Town Council, asking that before any railway be given a Provincial grant it shall agree to have all rolling stock made in Canada.

A return was laid on the table in response to an order of the House made on March 18, 1896, showing the amount obtained for timber limits and timber dues in the Township of Oakley, and all the expenditure of the Government in the township, and the same information in regard to the whole District of Muskoka. The total revenue from the timber in the township was \$134,295, and the expenditure \$17,930. For the District of Muskoka the amount of collections from timber was \$1,119,674, and from land \$46,588, a total of \$1,166,262. The expenditure amounted to \$1,189,911. The Government still owns 16,484 acres of timber land in Muskoka.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Ryerson—Bill to amend the municipal act; bill respecting the liabilities of hospital trustees.

Mr. Ryerson—Inquiry of Ministry: Is it the intention of the Government to dismiss on the grounds of offensive partisanship or neglect of Government's business any of its officials who took an active part in the late Dominion election?

Mr. Ryerson—Order of the House for a return showing: (1) Any instructions issued to the Provincial Auditor by the Government or Provincial Treasurer regarding his duties; (2) copies of his reports to the Executive Council; (3) copies of reports to the House, the number of witnesses examined by him in the years 1894-95-96, and expense attendant on such examinations.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE QUESTION.

The Government House question, which is regarded not only by the Patrons of Industry but by the Administration and the Opposition as one of considerable importance, has again emerged. Mr. Haycock, the Patron leader, lost no time in placing upon the notice paper a question as to whether the Government will introduce legislation this session providing for the abolition of the maintenance of Government House. The question was neither asked nor answered to-day, but shortly after the House rose Mr. Hardy gave notice of the appointment of a committee to take the question into consideration. This proceeding is in harmony with the recommendation of the committee that last session had the matter in hand. It appointed a sub-committee, which took evidence, but the session came to a close before the main body completed its labors. The committee then recommended:—

"That a considerable amount of progress having been made in collecting materials for a well-considered policy, and it not having been found practicable to conclude this session that part