

the dissolution of the Legislature of which he was a member.

Mr. Gibson proposes to amend the act respecting land surveyors and the survey of lands. This bill changes the qualification of apprentices and the term to be served. It admits surveyors from other places in the British dominions, and provides that candidates shall pass examinations in elementary botany, as well as in the subjects now required. It amends the act in other respects.

#### POSITION OF THE DOCTORS.

Mr. Davis moved confirmation of orders in Council placing the following institutions on the list entitled to receive Provincial aid under the charity aid act:—Huntsville Hospital; General Hospital, Sarnia; Western Hospital, Toronto; Home for Incurables, London; Home for the Aged and Infirm, Cobourg; Home for the Aged, Lindsay, and Rescue Home, Hamilton. There were also two orders in Council granting \$4,000 each to the County of Lambton House of Industry and the Perth House of Refuge. Dr. Baxter took exception to the proposition to assist the Western Hospital on the ground that it was not in the interest of medical education or of the Toronto General Hospital. Mr. Davis, in a brief speech, justified the grant, pointing out that strong representations had been made to the Government in regard to the necessity of having a hospital in the western part of the city. The grant was opposed by Dr. Willoughby and Dr. McKay (Victoria). It was supported by Dr. Ryerson, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Stratton and Mr. Marter, and the House ratified it with the others.

#### CHILD IMMIGRATION.

Consideration of Mr. Gibson's bill to regulate the immigration into Ontario of certain classes of children was proceeded with in Committee of the Whole and several amendments to the measure were made. To avoid the duplication of men and machinery a provision was inserted that Dominion Immigration agents may act as examiners and certify to the character of children abroad about to be brought to Ontario. A sub-section was put in requiring that every agent or society authorized to carry on work in Ontario shall keep a record of the more important terms and conditions of the agreement of placing out or binding as an apprentice of any child. A proviso was added to the section dealing with the power to return an adopted child to a society, that the return shall not be a matter of right on the part of the person in whose charge the child is placed. Another change in the bill was that when a child has been returned after being placed out the society or agent shall ascertain the true cause of such return, and if it shall appear that it was caused by an act of immorality or serious misdemeanor on the part of the child the society before placing the child with another person shall state the true cause of the return. Another provision inserted named the punishment for inducing a child to leave its foster home. The class of children acceptable to the Province for the purposes of immigration was specifically stated. Any child who has not been convicted of any crime or misdemeanor or displayed any vicious tendencies may be brought in.

Authority was given to the society importing a child or the custodian of the child to send it to a Public or Separate School. Finally a clause was added making it clear that the section of the master and servant act prohibiting the making of contracts abroad for the performance of labor in the Province shall not be affected by the bill. The measure was reported, and stands for its third reading.

Mr. Hardy's bill respecting the administration of justice in the unorganized districts of the Province was passed through committee with a few amendments. The selection of jurors is taken out of the hands of the Sheriff and transferred to the Sheriff, Clerk and Registrar of Deeds.

Mr. Gibson's loan companies bill was passed through committee with a few amendments. The amount recoverable in the Division Courts on arrears of calls is increased from \$40 to \$100. Another clause is added to make it perfectly clear that shareholders shall not be called on to pay for any liability on their paid up stock. In response to a great many applications from loan companies, Col. Gibson said the Government had agreed to permit the lend-

ing of money to shareholders on their own stock to the extent of 10 per cent of the paid-up capital, provided that such loans do not exceed two-thirds of the value of the stock. Mr. Stratton and Mr. Pattullo objected to even the power to lend on capital being granted.

Opposition was offered to the proposition to limit the number of proxies held and voted upon by any shareholder to 10 per cent. of the total number of shares represented and voted at the meeting.

The provision was, after discussion adopted. In connection with the clause dealing with the registration of companies, Col. Gibson said that it was not the intention to fill the office of Registrar. Some officer in the public service would be called upon to discharge the duties of Registrar, and, while some clerical assistance would be required, it was not intended to appoint a Registrar.

The remaining clauses of the bill were passed with but little discussion.

#### FICTION IN LIBRARIES.

The House spent the remainder of the sitting in Committee of Supply. Before the consideration of the agricultural vote was resumed Mr. Ross took the opportunity of replying to the criticism of Col. Matheson of the method of classifying books in public libraries. Col. Matheson had stated that the library classification had been changed, and that the inference which had been drawn in regard to the study of fiction would be inaccurate, because books that were fiction were not classified as such now. He had said that the catalogue now issued put many works of fiction under the heading of history, voyages and travel. Mr. Ross said that Conan Doyle's works were always classified as fiction, and the books of Jules Verne and Ballantyne were classified in 1895, as they had been in 1880, under the heading of voyages and adventure. No change had been made in the classification for 25 years. According to a statement furnished by the Superintendent of Public Libraries and Mechanics' Institutes, the amount of fiction read in 1880 was 80 per cent. in 1885 61 per cent., in 1890 55 per cent. and in 1895 48 per cent. The Minister read a memorandum from Librarian Bain of Toronto, saying that the library issued in 1885 54 per cent. of fiction, and in 1896 46 per cent. The classification had remained unaltered. These statements verified the assertion previously made by the Minister that there had been a large reduction in the quantity of fiction read. Mr. Ross read an official declaration refuting the statement that the Superintendent of Mechanics' Institutes was interested in a book concern of which his son was the Manager. The statement was to the effect that Dr. May, the Superintendent, never had any interest in the Book Supply Company.

#### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Major Hiscott objected to many of the items in the estimates for the Department of Agriculture intended for educational purposes, particularly that for spraying experiments. He claimed that they were unnecessary, as were also the grants for the Horse-Breeders' Association.

Mr. McPherson, before discussing the estimates for the Agricultural College, spoke of the necessity of securing profitable agriculture. While agricultural science and agricultural art were necessary, agricultural business science was also necessary. After speaking of the high efficiency of the college, he declared that what was wanted in the farm was an efficient professional accountant, who would keep a careful account of all expenses in connection with the farm, who would keep a debt and credit account for every acre of the farm. Another professor, a business professor, was also needed. The benefit to the students of acquiring a thorough knowledge of bookkeeping would be very great. He believed that the farm could be made profitable. The appropriation for the farm proper was \$6,850, and the revenue about \$4,000. He thought that if it was possible to make a farm in Ontario pay every effort should be made to make the model farm pay, and it was a sad thing if it was not possible to make a model farm pay. It was a discouraging example for the young men of the Province.

Col. Matheson asked if it was not possible to do away with the grant of \$1,800 for the spraying experiments.

Mr. Dryden replied that the ground