

General, would, he thought, almost remove all the heart-burning which now exists throughout the country. There might be a little difficulty in the way, but it might be overcome.

The bill was read a second time.

The House went into committee on the resolution by Hon. Mr. Dryden making provision for the payment of the compensation contemplated to be made to owners of trees destroyed under the bill for eradicating the San Jose scale pest. The resolution was reported without amendment, and the "bill to prevent the spread of the San Jose scale" was also reported by committee of the whole House.

#### Gambling at Exhibitions.

The bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Dryden to prevent gambling and games of chance at agricultural exhibitions was considered in committee.

Mr. Willoughby favored the bill.

Mr. German urged that a withdrawal of the Government grant would be more effective than putting this legislation on the statute book. In many cases this gambling goes on under the eyes and with the knowledge of the managers of the exhibitions.

Dr. Baxter said that it is just about as Mr. German had stated, and frequently the authorities of the exhibition had leased the privileges of operating the games of chance, and that sort of thing should be checked. In such cases as he alluded to the constable would not want to arrest men, because they were only doing what they had bought the privilege of doing.

Mr. McDonald (Bruce) favored the principle of allowing the agricultural exhibitions to stand upon their merits.

Mr. Haycock urged that a clause be inserted making the officials of the exhibitions equally responsible with men who operate the gambling enterprises.

Mr. Whitney agreed that the bill is a good measure.

The bill was reported.

#### Lord's Day Observance.

Hon. Mr. Hardy moved the second reading of "the bill to secure the better observance of the Lord's Day," and in doing so briefly explained that the bill is rather an explanation of what the existing law is intended to be than a new law. He had intended to embody in the bill the sections which were so unanimously passed by the House last session in reference to the regulation of certain electric railways in order to remedy the defect whereby the penalties of the original act did not apply. He had, however, found that the commission in consolidating the statutes had supplied the deficiency.

Mr. Crawford asked for an explanation with reference to the clause exempting keepers of livery stables and cabs from letting on Sundays horses and vehicles with or without a driver for purposes other than that of doing business or work. He saw a difficulty as to the hiring of these vehicles for pleasure purposes, and asked where it was proposed to draw the line.

Mr. Auld drew attention to the necessity for providing that the clause should not apply to the supplying of steamboats with coal and fuel, as there are several large plants on the Canadian side in which large sums of money have been invested and which would be

placed at a disadvantage by the operation of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Hardy, in reply to Mr. Auld, said that if the supplying of fuel to the steamboats on Sunday was not against the law as it stands now the bill would not make it so. The Lord's Day act now prevents the running of excursion boats on the Lord's Day. In the case of a vessel that was not running in contravention of the Lord's Day act, needing to wood or coal up, he presumed that would come under the exemption as a work of necessity. As to the livery stables, that is a very nice question. Livery stable keepers have been doing what Mr. Crawford alluded to all along; they hire out cabs and liveries, and no one is disposed to interfere with them. It was just a question where the line should be drawn. No argument was offered by the Lord's Day Alliance deputation that there should be any interference with a man taking a cab or a bicycle and going out on the Lord's Day. The chief aim of the Lord's Day act was to prevent the carrying on of the worldly business on that day.

The bill was read a second time.

The bill respecting the sale of patent and other medicines and of alcohol for the purposes of the arts and manufactures was, upon motion of Hon. Mr. Harcourt, read a second time.

The House went into supply and continued the consideration of the estimates until 6 o'clock. The Premier introduced a bill to amend the surrogate act.

#### Supplies by Tender.

Mr. Crawford rose after recess to introduce an amendment to supply, declaring in favor of the tender system in procuring Government supplies. The advantages of this method of making purchases of supplies for public purposes, he said, had been proved by the experience of the municipalities. The Government had by partially adopting it acknowledged that the system was a good one. The Opposition did not mean to say that the tender system should be applied in every instance, but if the Government had found the system a good one in a limited extent they should go a little further and apply it more extensively. In the various public institutions there are large quantities of supplies which are procured, the very largest items of which in some instances are not purchased by contract. In the City of Toronto large quantities of food and fodder are required, and it is found practicable and profitable to purchase these supplies by tender, and by specifying their approximate quantities and the quality of the articles they had obtained a price which demonstrated the success of the method. The Provincial Government should, in view of the experience of the City of Toronto and other municipalities, adopt the tender system in the interests of economy and efficiency. He

moved that this House is of the opinion that the tender system of purchasing supplies for the public institutions of the Province should be adopted in lieu of the system at present carried on.