

To amend the act respecting the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors—Mr. Gibson, Hamilton.

Respecting certain by-laws concerning drainage in the Townships of Grey, Alma and McKillop—Mr. Gibson, Huron.

Respecting the Cataract Power Company of Hamilton (Limited)—Mr. Middleton.

Respecting the estate of the late Richard Stubbs—Mr. Garrow.

Further to facilitate the purchase of toll roads by municipalities—The Attorney-General.

Respecting the investment of court funds—The Attorney-General.

Respecting the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara—Mr. Lockenson.

The House went into Committee of Supply on the supplementary estimates. Among other items considered was the vote of \$8,565 for the balance of the fees due Architect Waite of Buffalo, making the total amount paid to this gentleman \$45,019. Mr. Waite claimed much more than this sum, but the Government refused to accede to his demands, and the settlement is the result of a compromise. There was a brief discussion upon the item of \$25,000 to commence the building of the new Normal School at London. The structure, which will be modern in arrangement and graceful in architectural outline, will cost \$60,000, and it is expected that it will be ready for occupation in 1899.

Important Changes.

Upon the item of \$7,500 for the site for a Boys' Reformatory and Industrial School in Oxford, between Woodstock and Ingersoll, Mr. Davis announced some new plans in regard to the care of the criminal, the wayward and the insane. The contemplated changes involve the Mercer Reformatory, the asylums for the insane and feeble-minded, the Penetanguishene Reformatory for Boys and the Industrial Refuge for Girls. The asylums are now overcrowded, and there are 108 applications for the admission of patients that cannot be granted, not to mention thirty-four lunatics confined in the jails. In the asylum for feeble-minded persons at Orillia there are 635 inmates. The applications for admission to this institution number 161, and the number of patients in the jails 9. When the boys are removed from Penetanguishene to Oxford it is proposed to transfer the harmless but chronically insane patients from the large asylums to the vacated institution. The old Victoria College building at Cobourg, which has been purchased by the Government, will either be utilized to accommodate the overflow from the Orillia institution or it will be converted into an industrial refuge for girls, and thus separate young female unfortunates from the old offenders at the Mercer Reformatory. Negotiations are also in progress between the Dominion and Ontario Governments looking to the transfer of the female convicts from the Kingston Penitentiary to the Mercer Reformatory. The whole scheme has not yet been matured, but it is in process of development, and when all the details are worked out a great improvement will be made in the facilities for caring for the dependent

and criminal classes of the community, and that at a minimum of expenditure. Col. Matheson, Mr. Miscampbell, Mr. Whitney and other members of the Opposition saw a political motive in all this, a suspicion that Mr. Hardy, Mr. Ross, Mr. Davis and others showed to be groundless.

Retiring Gratuity.

Dr. Meacham pointed out that the gratuity of \$600 to J. Alexander, usher at Osgoode Hall, after 50 years' service, if given in accordance with the act and on the basis of a month's salary for each year of service, indicated that he must have received a very small salary. Mr. Hardy replied that it was not customary to grant retiring gratuities at that rate; if it were done some would receive \$5,000 or \$6,000, and it would soon be out of the power of the Government to grant anything at all. Probably a fund would be established to which the employees would contribute out of their salaries.

Dr. Willoughby, in discussing the proposed grant of \$7,500 for carrying out the San Jose scale act, insisted upon the selection of thoroughly competent men as inspectors. He said that he had no confidence in Mr. Dryden's selections since the appointment of Lieut.-Col. McCrae as lecturer on tuberculosis. Mr. Dryden assured the House that he would exercise the utmost care in making his selections. Dr. Willoughby's objection to Mr. McCrae, he said, arose, not because he was not a veterinary surgeon, but because he did not belong to the class of men whom the doctor wished to see appointed to office.

The House went into committee, and reported the railway resolutions.

The following bills were given a final reading:—Mr. McKay's Town of Ingersoll bill, Mr. Davis' bill to amend the companies act and Mr. McNaughton's bill in regard to the debenture debt of the Township of Amabel.

To Correct Mistakes.

While the House was in committee on the bill extending the provisions of the manhood suffrage registration act to towns the Premier moved the addition of a clause applying them to three townships, because of extraordinary circumstances existing in these districts. In South Algoma Township Judge Deacon of Renfrew had illegally removed from the list the names of 52 persons entitled to the franchise, which had been irregularly put on by the Court of Revision. The Court of Appeal subsequently held the Judge's law to be bad. In the Townships of Hagartry and Sherwood the responsible officer failed before the revision to post up the voters' lists in the postoffices, and the result was that many names were inadvertently left off the lists. To correct these mistakes of law and fact the Premier proposed that the voters should be allowed to register. Mr. Whitney strenuously opposed the proposition on the ground that it was contrary to sound principle and precedent, but especially because, he said, 51 out of the 52 voters in South Algoma were supporters of the Government. Mr. Hardy mentioned the fact as it had been communicated to him, that seven names had been left on the list by the Judge who were in the same position as the 52. The explanation suggested was that the