

deer shot by a settler named Richards. The last named was entitled as a settler to shoot the deer, and Stevens merely carried the skins into town to oblige him. There was no secrecy about it, but everything was open and above board. Stevens was, however, arrested and fined \$10 and costs. The constable, Mr. Reid averred, was a worthless character who made arrests in order to get fees.

Hon. Mr. Gibson had no objection to furnishing the return asked for. He pointed out, however, that frequently when a constable did his duty and enforced the law the cry was raised of interference with the liberty of the subject and of cruelty and unnecessary hardship. On the other hand, the department frequently received complaints that there was not a reasonable enforcement of the law. He did not doubt that among the multitude of deputy wardens and who did not receive salaries there were cases where some indiscreet things had been done. He did not know, however, that such was the case in this particular instance.

#### Shooting of Deer.

Mr. Pyne moved for a return giving details in regard to the circular letters

sent out by the Chief Game Warden touching the shooting of deer in the water.

Mr. Gibson observed that 3,000 blank forms were sent out, but not more than five or six hundred replies were received. The majority of the replies, however, were against the advisability of retaining the prohibitory clause, and the Game Law Commissioners had recommended, in view of the conflict of evidence and the strong opinions held by some, that the prohibition against shooting deer in the water should be repealed. (Hear, hear.) It would be a satisfaction to know that the revenue received from licenses exceeded the amount expended in administering the law. The measures adopted for the protection of deer had resulted in a large increase of these animals in Ontario. He might say, too, that moose, seldom seen in the eastern part of the Province, had increased to such an extent under the protection accorded them that he was hopeful there might perhaps, under a well-considered law, be an open season for a week next year. "I do not say that that will be the case," said Mr. Gibson, "but I am hopeful we may be able to do that." The report of the Game Commissioners, which would contain a lot of information on the subject of the motion, would be down in a few days, and he would willingly supply any details that were wanting in that respect.

The motion passed.

#### Protection of Birds.

Mr. Pyne asked for a return giving a list of persons to whom permits were granted in 1898 to collect birds, birds' nests and eggs, under the provisions of the act for the protection of insectivorous and other birds.

Mr. Gibson pointed out that the number of permits had been greatly restricted since the administration of the act came under his department, and

the Game Law Commissioners were anxious that the number should be still further restricted.

#### The Brewers' Objection.

This afternoon a deputation representing the brewers waited upon the Government in reference to the license bill. Among those who composed the deputation were Messrs. Eugene O'Keefe, Robert Davies, Hume Blake, L. J. Cosgrave and Secretary Kernaghan, Toronto, and Mr. Taylor, St. Catharines. The chief object of the visit was to ask the Government to insert a clause providing that brewers may sell in wholesale quantities within the municipality where the brewery is situated to other than license holders. If they are refused this they will in cities suffer a loss of the profit they now derive from the sale to householders of beer in kegs, which, in some cases, forms quite a large item of business. The deputation also discussed not unfavorably the proposed license fee, with which they found no serious fault. They are also not entirely in accord with the clause which provides for a fine of 50 per cent. of the duty in cases where the brewer makes an incorrect return under the

act. It was pointed out to them, however, that the bill also contains a clause remitting the fine where it is found that the error was not made for the purpose of defrauding the Government.

#### G.T.R. Objects.

Messrs. Wainwright, Biggar and B. B. Osler, representing the G.T.R., also waited upon the Government with reference to the clause taxing the railways, which does not meet with the approval of that railway. The ground upon which the objection is based is that many of the roads operated by the G.T.R. were originally constructed as pioneer or colonization roads in new districts, and that they never have and do not now pay, but are operated at a loss. The company contends that these roads should not be taxed under the circumstances.

#### The License Law.

Mr. Marter gives notice of a bill to amend the liquor license law. The object is to require a petition signed by two-thirds of the ratepayers in a polling subdivision before granting an application for a shop license. At present such is the law with regard to tavern licenses.

#### Gold in Clarendon Township.

Mr. Blue, Director of the Bureau of Mines, has returned from the Township of Clarendon, where he went to inspect the property of the Boerth Mining Company. Some very rich discoveries of gold are reported to have been made, and Mr. Blue went up to inquire into the truth of them. He brought back several samples of ore which will be assayed.

#### Want a Building Erected.

A deputation, representing the dairy interests of the Province will wait upon the Government to-morrow at 2 o'clock and urge the granting of an appropriation for a new building at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition. It is