

that a terrible indignity had been placed upon the shoulders of a Canadian subject, and demanded that the most vigorous measures be taken to secure redress. He thought Canadians were too much inclined to pay deference to the sensibilities of their neighbors, and declared that the Ontario Government should take the matter up. He described the indignities to which Mr. Meagher had been subjected, and referred to the lamentable death of Mr. Meagher, sen., who was drowned while searching for his missing son.

Hon. Mr. Hardy explained that this was an international question, in which the Province had no locus standi, and that it rested entirely with the Dominion Government, in whose hands he was satisfied the interests of Canada would be well looked after.

Mr. Whitney contended that it was the duty of the Attorney-General as soon as the matter came to his notice to inquire into it. The officials of the United States, he said, were much more prompt and vigorous in their action in matters affecting the liberty of their citizens. The County Crown Attorney, he held, should have acted immediately the offence was committed.

Mr. Pardee stated that the result of the protests by the Dominion Government had been that the United States Government demanded the resignation of the official who committed the offence, and that individual is no longer in the employ of the United States.

The order for the papers was discharged.

Crawford Bill Ruled Out.

Mr. Crawford's bill in regard to the overcrowding of street cars was ruled out by the Speaker on the ground that it was really a private bill, and not a public measure. It was true that to a certain extent it applied to a question of general policy, but it proposed to change a private bill confirming an agreement between the city and the railway company, and had not been introduced at the instance of either party. Of course it would be within the right of any citizen to petition for amendments to the bill in question.

Bonuses to Industries.

The debate on Mr. Pattullo's resolution against the bonusing of industries by municipalities was then resumed.

Mr. German professed a great deal of respect for the resolution, but he thought it went somewhat too far. Since the enforcement of the general act preventing municipalities from granting bonuses to industrial establishments certain exceptional cases had occurred which had induced the Legislature to allow municipalities to give bonuses or to confirm bonus by-laws. In the Town of Thorold exceptional circumstances transpired which induced the Legislature to confirm a municipal by-law of that character. Such exceptional circumstances might occur in the future, and to adopt a hard and fast rule such as was proposed, and to say that no bonus by-laws should be confirmed or bonuses permitted, would

not, he thought, be carrying out the true intention of the Legislature.

Mr. German's Amendment.

He therefore moved, seconded by Mr. Pardee, that the resolution be amended by adding the following:—

"This House, however, is also of opinion that in view of the granting of exceptional legislation during the past five or six years in cases which have been brought before the House, there may be among the pending applications to the Legislature at the present time cases where municipalities have in good faith proceeded upon the assumption that similar legislation would be granted to them, and made arrangements accordingly, and that the Private Bills Committee should take circumstances of this nature into consideration in dealing with the pending applications, but at the same time should not grant legislation which would not substantially come within the lines of the repeal provisions of the municipal amendment act of 1888."

Municipalities Should be Free.

Mr. Clarke held that it was not the duty of the Legislature to take out of the hands of municipalities duties which the latter had rightfully performed. The municipalities had as good an idea of their own needs as the Legislature had, and he cited the case of the Town of Cobourg as illustrating that the hands of these bodies should not be tied. In the case in question woollen mills which had been successfully operated for 30 years and employed 100 hands had to make an assignment. A number of attempts were made to find purchasers for the property, but in vain. Finally, an offer was made to put up \$17,000 of the required purchase money, providing the Town of Cobourg guaranteed the remaining five thousand odd dollars. That was done, and as a result the woollen mills were in operation once more. A resolution such as proposed would prevent arrangements of the kind described, even where it was manifestly in the interest of the municipality.

Mr. Carscallen was of opinion that neither the resolution nor the amendment met the case. He would like to see the Legislature place on record in an unequivocal manner its opinion that the bonus system should be allowed only under very exceptional circumstances, and where such a proceeding was clearly in the interest of the municipality and had received the assent of a large majority of the ratepayers.

Mr. McKay urged that they should ponder well before they restricted the petitioning power of municipalities or of individuals, which was always carefully guarded where self-governing institutions prevailed. The great defect about the resolution was that the only exception for which it provided was destruction by fire. Nothing was said about losses through a calamity such as had overtaken the St. Catharines district when it was devastated by a tornado, or about damages from floods. Most business men provided against fire losses through the medium of insurance, and it was scarcely such an exception