

000 or less, and the sum of \$65 on every additional \$100,000 or fraction thereof of paid-up capital." It is now proposed to add to this clause the following:—"And where the gross profits of any trust company are \$25,000 per annum, or over, such company shall pay a further sum per annum of \$500. The interest received by a trust company from the paid-up capital of the company, which may be invested, shall not for the purposes of this act be reckoned as gross profits."

It was at first proposed to tax telephone companies one-sixth of 1 per cent. upon their paid-up capital. The proposed tax has now been reduced to one-eighth of 1 per cent.

The maximum license free for distillers at first contemplated was \$5,000 where the amount invested exceeded \$150,000. The \$5,000 fee is now to apply to breweries where the amount invested exceeds \$150,000 but is not more than \$400,000, and a maximum fee of \$6,500 is to be imposed when the investment exceeds \$400,000 in amount.

#### Bills Introduced.

Mr. Matheson introduced a bill to amend the electric railway act. The measure provides that when a car comes to a draw-bridge or swing-bridge it must stop for sufficient time to allow the conductor to ascertain from the bridge-tender that it is safe to be crossed, instead of stopping for the full three minutes.

Mr. Leys introduced an act respecting municipal and school elections. It provides that every person proposed for an office, the holder of which is required to have a property qualification, shall on the day of the nomination or on the following day, or, when such last-named day is a holiday, then on the succeeding day, file in the office of the Clerk of the municipality not later than 5 o'clock in the afternoon a statutory declaration that he possesses the necessary qualification, and in default of so doing such person shall be deemed to have retired, and his name shall be removed from the list of candidates, and shall not be printed on the ballot papers.

#### Bills in Committee.

The House went into committee upon the bill to consolidate the debt of the Town of Mattawa. When the bill was before the Private Bills Committee permission to issue 30-year debentures was refused, but Hon. Mr. Gibson informed the House that a strong case had since been made out for an extension of the period, and at his suggestion the clause was restored to its original condition. The ratepayers of Mattawa will therefore be able to spread the instalments of repayment over thirty years.

The following bills were also passed through the committee stage:—

Respecting the Town of Smith's Falls—Mr. Matheson.

To incorporate the Toronto Western Hospital—Mr. Crawford.

To authorize and confirm the amalgamation of the Toronto General Trusts Co. and the Trusts Corporation of Ontario—Mr. Pardee.

To incorporate the Bruce Mines & Algoma Railway Co.

The following bills were given second readings:—

Respecting the Town of Orillia—Mr. Miscampbell.

Respecting the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto—Mr. Pyne.

Relating to the Sault Ste. Marie & Hudson Bay Railway Company—Mr. Charlton.

To consolidate the debt of the Town of Leamington—Mr. Auld.

Respecting the trusts under the marriage settlement of Mildred Raymond and John Raymond—Mr. Foy.

Respecting the City of Toronto—Mr. Crawford.

To incorporate the Toronto, Lindsay & Pembroke Railway Company—Mr. Fox.

To amend the act incorporating the Smith's Falls, Rideau & Southern Railway Company—Mr. Matheson.

To incorporate the Haliburton, Whitney & Mattawa Railway Company—Mr. Pyne.

Respecting the Township of York and to incorporate the Town of York—Mr. Hill.

To confirm by-law No. 740 of the County of York—Mr. Davis.

To amend the act to enable the trustees of the Canada Presbyterian Church in Osgoode to convey parts of the church lands to other trustees for a burial ground—Mr. Guibord.

To incorporate the Thessalon & Grand Portage Railway Company—Mr. Farwell.

To amend the municipal act—Mr. Macnish.

To amend the assessment act—Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Russell moved the second reading of the bill respecting civil engineers.

Mr. Hoyle objected to certain clauses which tended, he argued, towards forming a close corporation. He objected to the clause requiring graduates of universities to undergo certain examinations.

Hon. Geo. W. Ross expressed confidence that the House was not disposed to accept any measure which had the appearance of exclusiveness. It would not be practicable or wise to require that ordinary works of engineering undertaken by municipal Councils, such as road-building and the smaller hydraulic operations, should be carried out by civil engineers only. The bill might go to the Legal Committee, where the objectionable clauses could be eliminated.

#### Binder Twine.

Mr. Marter inquired: What were the cash receipts from the sale of binder twine manufactured at the Central Prison for the twelve months ending the 30th day of September, 1897?

Hon. Mr. Davis replied that the binder twine was manufactured under contract with the Government which received a certain sum for the labor of the prisoners. The binder twine is sold by the manufacturer under certain restrictions as to price which are approved by the Government.

Before adjourning Mr. Whitney expressed regret that hon. members were not in their places ready to advance the bills a stage when they were reached on the order paper. If members