

would be more diligent in this respect there would, he pointed out, be less need of night sessions. The Government, he admitted, were not to blame in this matter.

Hon. Geo. W. Ross concurred in the remarks of Mr. Whitney, and at 4.40 o'clock the House adjourned.

#### Private Bills.

The Private Bills Committee held a session last night to deal with several private bills of a controversial nature. The first bill taken up was that confirming a by-law of the City of Kingston which grants partial exemption from taxation for twenty years to the Dominion Cotton Mills Company of that city. Mr. Pattullo raised an objection to the bonusing or exemption system, but the committee passed the bill.

Then the committee took up the bill amending the act to enable Edward Spencer Jenison to develop and improve a water privilege on the Kaministiquia River and extend the provisions thereof. The bill extends the time for the completion of the work and also to change the plans and divert the waters of the river to a point near Port Arthur and Fort William. Mr. E. F. B. Johnston and Mr. Jenison were present in support of the bill. Mr. Torrance of Toronto appeared for the Ontario & Rainy River Railway Company in opposition to certain clauses alleged to prejudice the interests of the railway company, which has come upon the scene and constructed a railway since Mr. Jenison obtained his charter. The Town of Fort William was represented by C. J. Holman, ex-Mayor McKeillar, Councillor John Cooper, Trustee Pelletier, and Mr. Smoke also watched the proceedings on behalf of certain ratepayers.

The bill was amended to provide that the interests of the railway company and Mr. Jenison respectively as against each other shall not be affected by this legislation.

There was an apparent difference of opinion between the representatives of Fort William upon a clause in the bill confirming a by-law of the town, but the firm declaration of the Chairman that if the Fort William people could not agree they need not ask the committee to make an agreement for them, speedily reconciled their differences, and the opposition was dropped.

The other clauses of the bill having been passed, Mr. Torrance desired to have a forfeiture clause inserted in case of non-user, but the committee declined to accept the suggestion.

The bill respecting the Town of Peterboro' provoked a great deal of discussion, which ultimately resulted in the unanimous decision to accept Mr. Colquhoun's suggestion that the representatives of opposing interests be allowed to sleep over it. Mayor Davis represented the Town of Peterboro', and there were also present Warden Hawthorne, Councillors Shaw and J. Foster, Reeve O'Connor of Ennismore, T. A. Bradburn, A. Stevenson, Ald. Davidson, Allen, T. H. P. Hall. The bill confirms the by-law loaning \$50,000 to the Wm. Hamilton Manufacturing Company, Limited, and authorizes the corporation to develop waterpower and generate electricity.

Mr. Pattullo opposed the first clause vigorously.

Messrs. Carnegie and Dickson, representing the existing power companies, opposed the second clause.

Mayor Davis agreed to confine the operations of the town to generating electric power for the purposes of the municipality.

Mr. Pattullo contended that if the Town of Peterboro' is authorized to embark in a municipal electric plant every other municipality should be given the same privilege, and that the powers, if granted, should be carefully restricted.

#### To Disqualify Contractors.

Hon. Mr. Ross proposes to add another provision to his bill to amend the public libraries' act which will disqualify any person from being on the Board of Managers who has a contract with the Library Board. The same disqualification exists against persons sitting as School Trustees who have contracts with the School Board.

#### Michipicoton Claims.

The bill to amend the mining act, of which Hon. Mr. Gibson has given notice, is to facilitate the operation of the provisions in regard to mining claims which are in force in Michipicoton.

#### Hare-Spence System.

A petition signed by S. T. Wood and other citizens of Toronto was presented by Mr. Foy, pointing out that grave defects exist in the present system of municipal elections, and asking for the adoption of the Hare-Spence system of voting.

#### Want the Cost Reduced.

The County Council of Victoria has petitioned, through Mr. Carnegie, to have the cost of selecting jurors reduced. The petitioners claim that great sums of public money are at present being wasted in summoning jurors and paying fees to them, and in paying the expenses of Judges in connection with courts where there are no cases to be tried. The petitioners believe this may be obviated by requiring the parties to civil suits to file the notice of the trial ten days in advance. In the case of the smaller counties the Sheriff should not be permitted to begin to serve summonses on the jurors until the commencement of the tenth day before the first day of the opening of the court, and in the event of no such notice being filed, by requiring that no jurors be summoned. In the case of the larger counties the recommendation is that the Sheriff be obliged to ascertain whether there are any civil cases or any persons awaiting trial in jail on the tenth day before the opening of the trial, and if there are none, that registered notices be mailed to the jurors not to attend at such sittings.

#### His Certificate Cancelled.

A return relating to the charge preferred against C. C. Grant, law student, of St. Thomas, of having passed the matriculation examination of the Education Department in the summer of 1895 by means of copies of examination papers obtained beforehand, was presented to the Legislature. As soon as the complaint was laid before the