

contemplated by the original framers of the law. Nevertheless, while this refining process made the law more difficult to understand and to have knowledge of, it exerted a widening and purifying influence, tended to protect the rights of citizens, and resulted in the better observance of the municipal law than if municipal Councils were left to work out the larger propositions of their own along particular lines of action. The present proposition was a most important one. It had made considerable advance among the thinking class of the public, and, no doubt, within a limited sphere its operation was beneficent. He was afraid, however, that it would not be practicable to apply it to the general municipal system or to the whole of the Province. There was a great deal to be said in favor of the system, and it was sometimes urged with so much force that one was almost tempted to declare for its adoption. The idea of the scheme was to enable every phase of thought to be represented as nearly as the circumstances of public life would permit. That meant that nearly every strong minority would be able to send its representative either to the Council Board or to the Legislature. Every set of theories relating to taxation, for example, had its followers. Let each particular phase of thought elect its representative and you would have a Council Board composed of specialists. Each man would be imbued with the ideas of the school of thought which he represented, and would insist upon giving expression to them. These particular subjects would be discussed to the exclusion of the ordinary business of the Council or of the Province. The question was one of great interest and worthy of much study, and no doubt the mover of the bill, having succeeded in bringing the measure to the notice of the House and of the country, would not insist upon pressing it.

The bill was then withdrawn.

Investments by Trustees.

Mr. Clarke moved the second reading of a bill respecting investments by trustees. The object is to enable trustees to invest in the debentures of loan companies and building societies independently of the amount of dividend which the company is paying.

Hon. Mr. Gibson said he would not oppose the bill going to committee, but the Government must not be understood as assenting to the principle of the bill. The act was one that might not be lightly interfered with.

The bill was read a second time.

The Election Act.

Mr. Wardell withdrew his bill to amend the election act on the statement of the Attorney-General, who explained that in his bill to amend the same act provision was made for recount in cases where ballots were thrown out by irregularities on the part of the returning officer. This covered the ground of Mr. Wardell's proposal.

Boards of Control.

Mr. Lumsden's bill permitting cities of 50,000 population to create Boards of Control received a second reading.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said the almost universal opinion in Toronto, notwithstanding severe criticism, was that the

Board of Control had been of economic value in connection with the municipal government of the city.

Other measures read a second time were Mr. Lumsden's bill in regard to public parks, Mr. Auld's bill in regard to tree-planting, Mr. Matheson's bill amending the electric railway act, Mr. Leys' bill respecting municipal and school elections, Mr. Lumsden's bill

amending the act respecting Coroners, and Mr. Guibord's bill to amend the municipal act. Mr. Hill's bill to amend the public school act was withdrawn, as the Minister of Education is introducing a measure to accomplish the same result.

At the evening session a number of private bills were advanced a stage.

The License Resolutions.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt moved the adoption of the liquor license resolutions.

Mr. Whitney stated that it had been the intention of the Opposition to adopt the same procedure in regard to these resolutions as in the case of the others, namely, to move a six-months' hoist. After consultation with the hon. Provincial Treasurer, however, he had agreed to the resolutions being carried on division, on the understanding that when it was proposed to refer the bill founded on the resolutions to committee of the whole the Opposition would move an amendment, and the whole subject would then be discussed.

A bill founded on the resolutions was then introduced and read a first time.

On the motion for the second reading of the bill Mr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Jamieson, moved in amendment that the bill be not now read a second time, but be read a second time this day six months.

This was declared lost on division, and the second reading was carried.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt stated that he would move the House into committee on the bill to-morrow.

Grants to Hospitals.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved the adoption of resolutions making the usual grants to a number of hospitals and homes.

The motion was agreed to after a few deprecatory remarks from Mr. Whitney in regard to the lack of explanation and discussion. He hoped that in this case nothing would be heard of the charge that the Opposition had not objected to expenditures.

Hon. Mr. Davis said there was nothing objectionable in the resolutions, and assured the Opposition leader that he need not fear such a charge in this instance.

Just before adjournment Mr. Whitney stated he had heard that the return from South Perth was on its way to Toronto.

The House adjourned at 9 o'clock.

Saturday Sessions.

The Attorney-General gave notice of his intention to move on Friday:— "That on and after Monday next Government orders shall have precedence over all other business except private bills, and that there shall be a sitting of the House on Saturday next and on every succeeding Saturday at 11 of the clock a.m. for Government business only, Mr. Speaker to leave the chair at 1 of the clock p.m."