

from 117,247 in 1897 to 81,804 in 1899. There had also been a large decline in the offerings at Toronto. The growth of dairying might, perhaps, be partly

responsible for the decline. The principal reason he, however, thought was the lack of importations, due to the quarantine regulations. Unless the industry was attended to, the condition would be very much more serious than it is.

Mr. Lucas moved the adjournment of the debate, and the House adjourned at 11.25 p.m.

Private Bills Committee.

The Private Bills Committee held its first session yesterday morning, organized for the session, and reported two bills. At the opening Hon. J. M. Gibson, who has filled the post of Chairman for sixteen years, moved the name of Hon. Richard Harcourt as Chairman for the present session. In doing so he jocularly remarked that Mr. Harcourt had been looking for this place for a number of years and had really crushed him out of the position; but to show he had no hard feelings in the matter, he would himself nominate Mr. Harcourt. The nomination was seconded by Col. Matheson. Hon. Mr. Harcourt, in accepting, said he hoped he would be able to give the same satisfaction in that position that Col. Gibson had given.

The first bill taken up was Col. Gibson's bill incorporating the Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Mr. Wardell, on behalf of Rev. Dr. Laing of Dundas, asked that the latter's church be exempted from the provisions of the bill placing its property in the hands of the General Assembly and the Board of Trustees. Col. Gibson suggested that the better way for Dr. Laing to gain his object would be to bring in a private bill to this effect, and added that short notice might be accepted in order that the bill might be got through this session. The committee then reported the bill with a few changes in the wording, but with its meaning unchanged.

Mr. Auld's bill to confirm an agreement whereby Leamington is to supply natural gas to the Essex County House of Refuge, and also to give the town legal authority to supply natural gas to any person or persons, was reported, with the amendment that in respect to the latter part the privilege extend only to the Township of Mersea. The committee will meet at 10 o'clock this morning.

Notes.

The Minister of Agriculture has agreed to assist the Scottish Sugar Beet Syndicate to continue its experiments for another year at Welland and Alymer before deciding on the erection of a factory.

Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Premier of Ontario, has accepted an invitation from the Canadian Society of New York to attend their annual banquet on the evening of her Majesty's birthday, May 24.

Mr. Farwell has introduced a bill to permit the use of the Imperial Automatic Voting Machine by municipalities, whereby votes are recorded by a machine.

The House will be asked to ratify the mining regulations regarding staking out locations in unsurveyed territory, which were passed by Order in Council last May.

Mr. Pattullo has presented a petition from James H. Armstrong and others of Erie City, Pa., asking for a charter for an electric railway in Woodstock, with permission to extend it to Ingersoll and Embro.

SOME MUNICIPAL BILLS.

Explanations of and Comments Upon Several Measures Before the Legislature.

One of the bills to amend the municipal drainage act is No. 110, applying to section 83. This section provides that where the maintenance of any drainage work is so expensive that the Council deems it inexpedient to levy the cost in one year they may pass a by-law to borrow upon debentures the sum required, which debentures are to be payable within seven years from the date thereof. The proposed amendment is to change "seven" into "not more than twenty years."

The object of Mr. Burt's bill (No. 102) is to provide for the election of Councillors and Reeves for every municipality except cities and towns in alternate years. At present, under sec. 94 of the municipal act, only County Councillors are elected in this manner. If this principle is admitted to be a good one then the remainder of the bill amending several sections of the act would be necessary to carry the arrangement into effect.

Mr. Dryden's bill (No. 91) to amend the San Jose scale act. This is to allow of the adoption of regulations under the act to treat infested plants by spraying, washing or fumigation, in lieu of burning.

Bill No. 106 is to amend sub-sec. 4 of section 3, chapter 226, R.S.O., 1897, the municipal drainage act, which makes the lands and roads of any municipality, company or individual using any drainage work as an outlet liable to be assessed and charged for the construction and maintenance of the drainage work so used as an outlet or an impeded outlet, but providing that when the cost of any drainage work exceeds the sum of one thousand dollars, one-half of the cost of construction and maintenance should be assumed and paid by the Government of Ontario. The word "such" should apparently precede drainage work.
