

Hon. Mr. Latchford informed Mr. Brower that the Government had issued licenses for gill net or seine fishing in Lakes Erie and Ontario in 1899, and gave a list of several score persons to whom they were issued. It was the Government's intention to issue similar licenses in 1900, but the fee had not yet been decided.

Hon. Mr. Dryden informed Mr. Hoyle that the number of immigrants who settled in Ontario last year was 4,015. All immigrants paid their own passage. The Ontario agent at Liverpool gave such information as was needed, but did not directly send out immigrants. Mr. Duncan Bole, he added, in reply to another part of Mr. Hoyle's question, reported having settled nearly two hundred people in Algoma in 1898. As he was dismissed from his position under the Government in August, 1899, no report of the number settled had been received for that year.

Fishing Privileges.

Mr. Barr moved for a return showing correspondence between the Government and any party or parties respecting the leasing of any of the lakes in Ontario for fishing in, by net or otherwise.

Hon. Mr. Latchford said the matter had been under the consideration of the Government for some time. The policy had been to lease the foreshores of the lakes to anyone who would comply with the conditions and obtain a lease. There had been some opposition on the part of the settlers. It had, however, been found to be on the whole to the advantage of the settlers, who found profitable work in transporting tourists, etc. He would say, however, no such leases had been granted, but the matter would shortly be disposed of in a way which would make the Province even more attractive to tourists. It was thought that in various parts of the Province certain waters might be reserved for fishing. In view of the information given the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. Hoyle's motion for an order of the House for a return showing the number of cases in court from 1895 to 1899, at which there were no actions to go before the jury which was summoned, was carried.

Bonuses to Industries.

Mr. Pattullo moved his resolution disapproving of municipal bonuses to manufacturing concerns, and declaring "that this House views with disfavor the growing tendency which has been seen during recent sessions to evade the letter and spirit of the present law by special legislation, the effect of which is to favor the particular municipalities securing it. And that in the opinion of this House the law as it exists to-day should be maintained, and no further private bills passed giving special power to particular municipalities to grant bonuses or other aids to manufacturing concerns, when such power is not possessed by all the municipalities of the Province under the general law." He remarked that no apology was needed for bringing the subject of this resolution before the Legislature. The question of bonusing was one of very great importance. It was not a party question, but he considered it of much more importance than some of

the party questions which had been discussed year after year at great length in the House and in the country, without any appreciable change in public opinion. There was no law at present permitting municipalities to bonus industries, so it was not possible to bring in a bill on the subject. Therefore there was open only a declaration of the determination of the House to carry out the letter and spirit of the general law which it had itself passed. The resolution was slightly different from that of last year, which made no provision for accidents by fire or other like disaster. Exception had been taken to that exception on the ground that a bonus in the case of fire was a charity. He admitted the logical force of the objection, but would like to know if every bonus under any circumstances was not a charity. He knew no reason why a manufacturer who had suffered loss from fire should receive public aid any more than a merchant or anyone engaged in other pursuits.

It had been said that he (Mr. Pattullo) was inconsistent in opposing bonuses to manufacturers and supporting those to railways. The two cases were not analogous. The one related to transportation, the other to industrial work. Bonuses to railways were justifiable only because cheap transportation and development could not be procured without Government aid. But even on this subject a great change had taken place in public opinion, for the methods of railway bonusing pursued in the past would not now, after years of rather unsatisfactory experience, be endorsed by public opinion. Further, he was prepared to support the Government's policy on a bounty to iron for a few years, in order to develop our latent resources and to put an entirely new industry on its feet. If there were any other industries in the country that required a start, it should be a matter of Provincial or national action and concern, rather than one for municipal aid.

Municipalities Not Attacked.

Continuing, Mr. Pattullo said he was not seeking to take away the rights of municipalities, but to end an admitted abuse of those rights. The returns showed the extent to which public money had been wasted. Taking 95 towns which had given bonuses to industries, more than one-third of the industries so aided had failed. So that statistics proved that instead of bonuses helping industries they had had the opposite effect. The amounts given in Ontario to manufacturers both by way of bonuses and exemptions had been enormous. If these direct and indirect grants had been spent in public improvements much better results would have been seen everywhere throughout the country. Those who can best afford to pay have escaped the burden of public improvement, and the result was that all over the country towns and villages and cities had poor streets, poor public buildings, inefficient light and fire protection, which they might have if those who were best able to pay taxation were not allowed to go scot free, or if the burden of public improvements were not imposed upon those least able to pay.