

to pass by-laws for the union of existing school sections, the alteration of the boundaries of a school section, or the division of an existing section into one or more sections, and provides that a by-law passed for any of these purposes within the time enacted therein shall remain in force until set aside, as provided in the said act, for a period of five years. Section 39 provides for an appeal to the County Council of the county against the passing of any such by-law, giving power to the Council to appoint arbitrators to consider such appeal, and their decision when made is to continue in force for the period of five years at least, and section 52 provides that any by-law so passed or any award so made is to be valid for the said period of five years, notwithstanding any defect in substance or form, unless notice to quash is given. The object of Mr. Barr's bill is to do away with the five years' limit. There may be good reasons for asking this, but unless they are of a weighty character it is questionable if such an alteration would be in the general interests of the schools. Permanence is the goal to be aimed at.

Mr. Davis—A bill entitled an act to preserve the forests from destruction by fire is a most valuable act, and a step in the right direction. The first section makes provisions for the appointment of fire rangers for lands not under license to cut timber, or timber lands belonging to the Crown, and the payment for their services. The second section covers the case of lands under license, and provides for the appointment of such a number of fire rangers as the licensees may request, or, in the absence of such request, as the Commissioner of Crown Lands deems necessary, and provides that one-half of the expense shall be borne by the licensee and the other by the Province. Where the licensee requests the appointment he is to submit to the Commissioner a list of persons for such appointment, subject to the approval of the Commissioner. The act ends with a carefully-prepared clause stating the duties of the fire rangers.

The Assessment Act.

Mr. Barr's bill (117), relates to the assessment act. Section 61, sub-section 1 of the assessment act provides that County Councils may pass by-laws for taking an assessment in towns, townships and villages between the 1st day of February and the 1st day of July. The proposed act is to allow of the County Councils passing a by-law permitting such town, village or township to take this assessment themselves. The work to be done is not altered, simply the appointment of officers to do the work. There may be reasons why it may be better down in the manner proposed.

The Pharmacy Act.

Mr. Harcourt has a bill to amend the pharmacy act. Under the present act the council is required to hold two sittings in each year, on the first Tuesday in February and August. It is proposed to substitute Monday for Tuesday. Section 13 is to be repealed, and a new section takes its place, the main feature of which is the imposition of a fee of \$1. to be paid, together with the pro-

duction of a certificate of the Educational Department of Ontario, or other evidence that the applicant had previously passed an examination in the subjects therein stated. Mensuration, political, physical and mathematical geography are dropped, and in lieu thereof history of Great Britain and Canada are made necessary. Power is given to change the curriculum. The new order of things to take effect on January 1, 1901. The new section seems an improvement on that repealed.

The Law Society.

The Attorney-General has a bill relating to the Law Society. Section 4 of the act respecting the Law Society of Upper Canada enacts who shall be ex-officio benchers of the society. It is proposed to add to those therein provided "every person who has for seven consecutive years held the office of Treasurer of the said society." This is a compliment to the present incumbent of the office, and an amendment that should meet with the approval of the Assembly. The other clause of the act providing for the abolition of terms and changing dates for doing acts or giving notice is a matter of routine, for which, doubtless, there are good reasons.

Mr. Davis has a bill which is simply to place the School of Mining, Kingston, as one of the institutions that are granted certain privileges under section 28 of the land surveyors' act. The other institutions mentioned under the said act are graduates of the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario School of Practical Science, and McGill College, Montreal. This seems very reasonable.

Notes.

The Central Canada Loan & Savings Company was originally incorporated by Provincial letters patent as an Ontario company, but in 1898 was created by an act of the Canadian Parliament into a Dominion company. Yesterday the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature gave its assent to a bill vesting the assets of the company as a company reorganized by the Dominion Parliament. The usual argument over the granting of permission for municipal bonusing arose over the bill giving the power to the Town of Wingham to raise \$2,500 on debentures as a loan to a factory for the manufacture of tables and \$10,000 to aid in the establishment of a foundry, the company to control the latter being still unformed. Mr. Pattullo objected strongly to the bill. He said that there was no necessity for bonusing a furniture factory in Ontario to-day. There were too many factories, and sooner or later some of the furniture companies would be forced to the wall. Everyone knew also that this Province was strewn with the ruins of foundries, and while this state of affairs existed power was still being given Councils to spend the money of taxpayers in establishing en-