

up stock of such companies. Some of their largest loan companies had been applying for special legislation at Ottawa, notably the Central Canada, the Canada Permanent and the Huron & Erie, in which the borrowing powers were dealt with by the Dominion Parliament. It was proposed under this bill to give the same borrowing powers to loan companies under the Ontario act as they possessed under the Dominion law. The lending powers of loan companies were also materially increased by this bill. Hitherto a very conservative policy had been followed in regard to such powers, and they had been restricted to real estate, and a few other classes of securities, such as municipal debentures and the debentures of other loan companies. The Dominion authorized the lending of money on bank stocks as well as the debentures of ordinary incorporated companies and other kinds of companies. The present bill would enable loan companies to advance money on the debentures of incorporated companies for supplying gas, water, heat, light and power, the debentures of steam or electric railway companies, the debentures of telegraph and telephone companies, and also bank stocks within certain limitations. There were useful provisions for increasing and decreasing the stock of companies. It was provided that when 90 per cent. of the stock subscribed had been paid up there might be an increase of capital stock, and there was a provision as to the decrease of permanent capital stock. In both cases the interests of shareholders and creditors were fully protected. Further, there was a provision for discontinuing the chartering of building societies doing business on the terminating plan. He was not prepared to say that such companies did not do a useful business, but he did assert there had been great, and he might almost say general, abuse of the law in connection with this class of loaning business. He thought the House would agree with him, that until there was further light, and a demand for the creation of these companies was shown, no more companies on the terminating stock plan should be incorporated.

In the debate which followed remarks were offered by Messrs. Foy, Hoyle, Pattullo, Crawford, and Matheson. Mr. Foy suggested that the bill be sent to a special committee, so that the directors and shareholders of loan companies might be given an opportunity of expressing their views.

The Attorney-General said such a course was unusual in the case of a Government bill, but if it were found to be necessary he would recommend it.

The second reading then passed.

#### Game Law Amendments.

Hon. Mr. Gibson moved the second reading of a bill to consolidate the game laws. He said it had been proposed in the bill that the open season for quail should commence on November 1, instead of October 15. But there was a difference of opinion in the Province on the question, and at a later stage he would propose that the commencement of the open season for quail should date, as at present, from October

15. The bill proposed that under special conditions there should be an open season for moose this year, such open season to be repeated every third year. The bill would provide that hereafter partridge should not be offered for sale.

Mr. Whitney expressed his gratification at learning that the legislation by the House had been productive of such good results in the protection of game. The bill was read a second time.

#### Co-operative Cold Storage.

Hon. Mr. Dryden moved the second reading of a bill to provide for the incorporation of co-operative cold-storage associations. He was understood to dwell upon the importance of providing cold storage for the preservation of dairy products, and to explain that the bill proposed to give a grant not exceeding \$500 towards the cost of constructing and equipping a building erected by a co-operative cold-storage association.

In reply to Opposition criticisms the Premier explained that the object of the bill was not to provide cold storage for any particular industry, but to enable cold storage to be available for fruit, dairy products and all such perishable articles, so that they might be kept in a good state of preservation and marketed at the most convenient opportunity. Possibly cheese factories might come under the operation of the bill. He intended to bring down shortly a bill to enable municipalities to issue debentures for the erection of cold-storage buildings for the collection of goods at some distributing point or some centre that might be agreed upon by the municipal authorities. He thought the collection of products and their retention until the best time for marketing were two important features. The idea was for the municipality to erect and control the cold-storage buildings and regulate the fees to be paid. If the buildings passed inspection, then Provincial aid would be given.

The bill was read a second time.

#### Mr. Whitney's Charges.

Hon. Mr. Ross moved that the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. Whitney said he intended to move an amendment condemnatory of the appointment of Mr. R. A. Grant as assistant counsel for the Crown before the West Elgin Commission. He said that in its report of the first meeting of the commission The Globe made no reference to Mr. Grant's status. On the other hand, The Mail and Empire stated that Mr. Grant represented the Liberal organization. Neither the Premier nor the Attorney-General had seen fit to clear up the existing doubt as to Mr. Grant's position. They had made no allusion to the enormity, to the lasting disgrace of the appointment of that man as one of the counsel through whose hands all the evidence would have to pass before it reached the commission. It was beyond his comprehension how the gentlemen on the treasury benches allowed themselves to appoint this gentleman to the position of assistant counsel. Mr. Grant might be a very reputable man in his own profession, but the Conservatives said he was the very last man in the Province of Ontario that a