

The Attorney-General said that there was much to recommend in Col. Matheson's contention. Still he thought that municipalities should at least observe the law. After a long discussion, in which the Attorney-General opposed the bill, the committee by a vote of 25 to 12 decided in favor of granting the application.

The Town of Oshawa petitioned for permission to grant \$5,000 to Smith & Co. for the purpose of purchasing a site for a canning factory, and to loan \$50,000 to the McLaughlin Carriage Company to enable them to rebuild their factory. The bill passed without discussion.

In the Interests of Labor.

Mr. Preston of South Brant gives notice of the following resolution:—"Resolved, that in the opinion of this House all Government contracts should contain such conditions as will prevent abuses which may arise from the subletting of such contracts, and that every effort should be made to secure the payment of such wages as are generally excepted as current in each trade for competent workmen in the district where the work is carried out; and that this House cordially concurs in such policy and deems it the duty of the Government to take immediate steps to give effect thereto; and it is hereby declared that the work to which the foregoing policy shall apply includes not only work undertaken by the Government itself, but also all works aided by the grant of Provincial public funds; and that the aforesaid policy shall be forthwith applied to every department of the public service and to all parties now performing services for the Government."

Bureau of Labor.

Mr. Preston will inquire of the Government:—"Has the Government in contemplation the establishment of a Department or Bureau of Labor, which would be entrusted with the collection and publication of statistics and other information affecting the industrial classes, and with the enforcement of labor legislation?"

Government Bills Promised.

The Attorney-General has given notice of a bill to amend the registry act; Hon. J. R. Stratton, a bill to amend the Ontario companies act, and a bill to amend the mines act.

New Ontario's Claims.

The Government was yesterday afternoon asked that the grant for colonization be increased from \$5,000, as set forth in the estimates, to \$50,000 for the current year. The application was made by a deputation from Port Arthur and other places, who were accompanied by D. F. Burke and Messrs. Conmee, Loughrin, Pattullo, Graham, Blezard and Hill.

The subject was introduced by Mr. D. F. Burke in an interesting speech. In reply to the Premier, Mr. Burke suggested the establishment of an office in Toronto, where a couple of officials might be on duty with maps and pamphlets to give information to the public.

Mr. Blezard highly praised the agricultural resources of the Algoma and Nipissing districts, and suggested the

subsidizing of railways as a means of opening up the country.

Mr. Conmee suggested that some means be adopted of reaching people who were leaving the older districts and getting them to settle in New Ontario.

Mr. Pattullo was of opinion that the public would sustain a vigorous colonization policy. A good class of foreign immigrants like the Doukhobors would make desirable settlers.

Mr. McKay suggested opening up the lumbering and mining districts of Algoma by means of railways. He approved of land grants to railways.

Mr. Loughrin upheld the interests of Nipissing, and said he did not want railways as much as colonization roads.

Mr. Graham advocated the dissemination of information among the people of Ontario as to how they might reach the fertile districts of the north. The idea should be to keep our people from leaving the Province.

The Premier seemed to look with favor upon the proposition to have capable guides to direct settlers to the most desirable localities.

Hon. Mr. Davis thought that a larger share of the money spent by the Dominion for immigration purposes might profitably be devoted to colonizing the northern districts of Ontario. The suggestion to establish an office in Toronto might be found a desirable one later on. The work of colonization under Mr. Southworth's direction was proceeding satisfactorily. From 20 to 50 applications for information as to New Ontario were received and answered every day. One season might profitably be devoted to ascertaining how money could be expended to the best advantage in this work. The department had adopted the policy of selecting the most desirable locations for settlement, and colonists were being directed to them. He could safely promise that the Colonization Department would leave no stone unturned in order to promote the settlement of the northern districts.

Mr. Miller, who has been a settler in Algoma for twenty years, spoke of the prospects there and the happy and contented state of most of the settlers here.

Capt. Currie urged that communication be provided for developing the valuable zinc deposits near Rosspport, on the north shore of Lake Superior.

Railway Committee.

The bill to enable the construction of two short lines of railway connecting the extensive nickel deposits in the districts of Algoma and Nipissing, owned by Mr. Ludwig Mond, the well-known chemical manufacturer and nickel expert, of London, England, with the C.P.R. was reported by the Railway Committee yesterday morning. Messrs. J. M. Clark, Q.C., and R. E. Gagen appeared in support of the bill.

The Bracebridge & Trading Lake Railway bill also passed the Railway Committee. The company propose to operate by steam or electricity a railway from Bracebridge to Baysville and from Bracebridge to Beaumaris, and to operate freight and passenger steamers on the lakes.