

MONDAY, MARCH 26.

BUSY LEGISLATORS

Provincial Members to be Kept
at Work.

UNIVERSITY FINANCES.

Government Asked to Make an Annual Appropriation—Algoma Central Wants a Big Land Grant.

The coming week promises to be a busy one in the Ontario Legislature. All the committees will be actively at work, and as the remainder of the legislation which the Government have in view will doubtless be brought in this week the House will have a substantial programme to deal with. Wednesday will likely witness divisions on three bills. These will be Mr. Whitney's bill to amend the election act, Mr. Hoyle's bill to prohibit the appointment hereafter of a junior Judge for the County of Ontario, and Mr. Ellber's bill to permit mutual fire insurance companies to issue policies for five years instead of four as at present. Mr. Whitney's bill to amend the election act proposes to enact more stringent provisions for the punishment of bribery, but the Attorney-General has already a measure on the order paper dealing with the same subject, and the House will doubtless take the view that the Ministerial legislation will amply provide for such defects as experience may have shown to exist in the statute.

Mr. Stratton's Bills.

Hon. J. R. Stratton's bill to amend the charity aid act simplifies the work of compiling the tables showing the distribution of the moneys granted by the Government to the various institutions entitled to receive aid.

A second bill by Mr. Stratton is to amend the Ontario companies act. It proposes to get rid of certain features in the present law which have rather tended to harass mercantile concerns. In the case of an incorporated company carrying on business under the name of

an individual the word "company" may be omitted from the title, provided that the term "limited" appears in full and in the same sized type as the rest of the title. In the case of other joint stock companies the word "limited" may be abbreviated to "ltd." The bill will be retroactive and will thus put an end to the suits instituted against joint stock companies for abbreviating the word "limited" to "ltd."

Asking a Land Grant.

Premier Ross and Hon. J. R. Stratton on Saturday received a deputation, who asked that the Government make a grant of 6,400 acres per mile, or a total of 1,250,000 acres, in aid of the construction of the Algoma Central Railway. The projected line will be about two hundred miles in length, and will run from Sault Ste. Marie to Missanable, on the C. P. R., with a branch to Michipicoten. The deputation were introduced by Messrs. James Conmee and C. M. Bowman, M.P.P.'s, and included Mr. F. H. Clergue, Mr. A. E. Kemp (President of the Toronto Board of Trade), Mr. Hugh Blain and Mr. N. W. Rowell. The proposed railway is one of the numerous enterprises which the American capitalists for whom Mr. Clergue is acting have in contemplation. They expect, it was stated, to make expenditures or investments to a total amount of from \$16,000,000 to \$18,000,000. The estimated cost of the railway referred to is \$6,000,000, and they will build the line without issuing a dollar of stock or asking for a dollar of cash subsidy. The promoters undertake, if the land grant is made, to employ 5,000 men along the line of railway, and to establish an agency in Toronto and another in the old country to facilitate the settlement of the land which may be granted to them. They are erecting works for smelting nickel and iron at Sault Ste. Marie and will probably build rolling mills also at a cost of \$2,000,000. Four large steamers exceeding in carrying capacity any vessels now on the lakes are being built in England and will be in operation next summer carrying ore from Michipicoten harbor to the smelting works at Midland, Hamilton and Deseronto. The four ships, it was claimed, would cause an expenditure of \$500,000. These and other statements were made by Mr. Clergue in support of his proposition to the Government. Mr. Ross promised a careful consideration of the proposition.

Amending Municipal Act.

There are quite a number of bills introduced to amend the municipal act, the yearly grist of new and novel ideas, very few of which are found to be of much or any practical benefit, if made part of the present or any comprehensive act. The best act that could be passed this session would be one to forbid for the space of two years at least any further tinkering with the act. What a relief this would be, even greater than the relief from bonus legislation, which is bad enough, but which will probably be cured when the Government's bill is brought down. The following three acts give a good sample of the ideas promulgated by way of improving "the municipal act":—