

ed a period of three or four months would elapse before the subject of the recommendation was finally discharged. The Attorney-General said that he had no objection to offer, and that the point had long been a subject of remark and discussion by the Warden of the reformatory. He recalled the fact that when Sir Oliver Mowat was Premier correspondence had passed between the Government and Sir John Thompson on the subject of allowing the Province full control of the cases of inmates of these institutions who were serving indeterminate sentences. This view had not been assented to, but it was agreed that in these cases the recommendation for a pardon should be taken up promptly, and instead of a formal communication a telegram should be sent to expedite the action to be taken on the recommendation. He was not aware if there had been a relapse into the old condition of circumlocution and delay, but he would second the motion for the return.

Local Improvements.

Mr. Pattullo's bill to allow municipalities where the local improvement act has not been adopted to carry on certain permanent improvements was read a second time.

Hawkers and Peddlers' Act.

Mr. Pardee moved the second reading of a bill imposing the following fees upon hawkers and peddlers: \$100 for a two or one horse waggon, \$25 for carrying a basket or pack, \$25 for a push cart, and \$1 for carrying a basket, the licensee to carry his license with him at all times. The Attorney-General agreed to the bill going to the Municipal Committee, although he pointed out that the measure would be prohibiting in its effect.

The Municipal Year.

Mr. Mutrie moved the second reading of a bill providing that the financial year of municipalities, excepting Toronto, should begin on December 1 each year, and that the auditors' statement should be filed on or before December 10. He said that the bill was before the Municipal Committee last year, and as a result of inquiries subsequently made 376 municipalities had pronounced upon the measure, and of these 249 were in favor and 117 against the bill.

Hon. J. R. Stratton said that at the Municipal Committee the general opinion was that any such change would lead to great confusion.

Mr. Pattullo thought the present municipal elections were held at a very inconvenient period. It would be better if they took place about the last of January or the first week in February.

Mr. Whitney thought no injury would result to any municipality if the municipal act was left untouched for six years. If the act was constantly tampered with it might need eventually to be destroyed, and a new law constructed by experts, under the direction of the House.

The Attorney-General supposed the municipal act would never be in such a condition that it would prove entirely satisfactory to everyone. There would always be some originator of ingenious

ideas, which, in the framer's opinion, were absolutely necessary to the working out of the law. A great many of the bills introduced deserved to be pooh-poohed, but others again contained useful suggestions. He did not approve of the present bill, and thought it ought not to be referred to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. Mutrie said Mr. Stratton was mistaken in supposing the Municipal Committee opposed the bill. Mr. Hardy last year considered it a radical change, but suggested that the feeling of the municipalities be tested upon the bill. That had been done, and two-thirds of the municipalities had expressed themselves in its favor. However, if the House was opposed to the bill he would withdraw it.

The bill was then withdrawn.

Mr. Tucker's bill to provide for the equalization of union school assessments every three years was withdrawn, on the suggestion of the Minister of Education.

Width of Waggon Tires.

An interesting discussion took place upon Mr. Fox's bill prohibiting the manufacture in Ontario, save for export, of wheeled vehicles drawn by horses and intended for the carrying of a burden of 2,000 pounds, with tires of less width than three inches, after July 1, 1901.

Mr. Dryden conceded that the object of the bill was right, but doubted whether it could be accomplished in the way suggested, and especially on such short notice.

Hon. Mr. Stratton was also in sympathy with some action that would bring about a uniform construction of waggons of a certain width within a reasonable period. The difficulty, however, was how to arrive at the desired end.

The bill was read a second time and referred to the Municipal Committee.

Changes in City's Government.

Mr. Foy explained the provisions of his bill making changes in the government of the City of Toronto. The bill adds one member to the Board of Control and makes that body an elective one, the members being elected by the ratepayers at large. The Mayor's double vote is abolished, and the number of Aldermen to be elected from each ward is reduced from four to three. The property qualification for Mayor and Aldermen are abolished, except such qualifications as are required for a voter in municipal elections. The qualification for a voter is reduced from \$400 to \$300, and the date of the municipal elections is fixed on January 1, or the next day if that date falls on Sunday. The power of the police to issue licenses to vehicles regularly used for hire is extended by the striking out of the word "regularly," and the Chief of Police is given the power to stop sparring exhibitions when an admission fee is charged, such exhibitions being prohibited, except when a permit is obtained from that official. The city is given power to "purchase or develop" as well as manufacture light and heat, and the provisions of the municipal act where a by-law is to be passed for the construction of any gas, electric light or water company, incor-