

party, and that the inhabitants are sufficiently represented by the municipal corporation. Mr. Gibson suggested at the interview that if there was any doubt upon the point he would make it clear by legislation. That was accepted by both parties as a reasonable result of the application for the Attorney-General's fiat, and he is now about to put the promise into effect.

#### Solicitors and Clients.

Hon. J. M. Gibson is about to bring in a bill which will provide that solicitors may enter into contracts with their clients as to the amount which they shall charge for conducting litigation, and authorizing the payment to be based to a certain extent upon the success of the litigation. The contract system is now in vogue in the State of New York, where its operation is said to have been successful. One result will be to cheapen the cost of litigation in the case of small recoveries. In the event of a dispute between lawyer or client as to terms the matter will be adjudicated upon by a High Court Judge if the amount is over \$100, and by a County Court Judge if under that sum.

#### Prorogation Next Week.

The Premier moved that on and after to-day Government business shall have precedence over all other business excepting private bills. He said that if the House sat until a reasonably late hour to-night there would be no necessity for a sitting on Saturday. Any legislation yet to be introduced by the Government would be brought in this week or early next week. The bill to authorize a land grant to the Algoma Central Railway might be brought down before the close of the present sitting. There were some pulpwood agreements which would be submitted to the House on Monday or Tuesday. The probability was that the House would close some time next week.

Mr. Whitney saw no reason why there should not be a Friday night sitting, and in view of the Premier's statement regarding Government legislation, anticipated no difficulty in winding up business next week.

#### Important Railway Amendments.

Premier Ross introduced a bill to amend the act respecting certain railways. The provisions, he explained, would apply to all railways whose subsidies were not yet earned, in whole or in part. The first clause provides for special rates to settlers or prospectors. The second clause provides that all employees, including laborers and servants, shall be paid the current rate of wages. All railway supplies shall be purchased in Canada, and no alien labor shall be employed, as provided by the Dominion act.

#### Upper Canada College Bill.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt introduced a bill respecting Upper Canada College, the effect of which is to separate the college from the State and appoint a Board of Governors on condition that an endowment of \$50,000 is raised. In doing so Mr. Harcourt referred to the long and successful career of the college, dating from 1829, and having among its head boys such eminent Canadians as

the late Hon. Mr. Crooks, Chief Justice Moss and Mr. Edward Blake. Forty of its former pupils were now fighting in South Africa for the Queen. Last year more than forty of its boys matriculated at our leading educational institutions. The bill proposed the appointment of a body of seventeen governors, in whom would be vested full authority and management. Six of these would be ex-officio, as follows:—The Chief Justice of Ontario, the Minister of Education, Treasurer of the Law Society, Chancellor of Toronto University, President of Toronto Board of Trade, and the President of Upper Canada College Old Boys' Association. Of the balance three are named by the Old Boys' Association, and the balance by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, two of the latter eight to retire annually. The college property at present consisted of thirty acres of land, which with buildings was valued roughly at \$300,000, and invested securities amounting to \$36,450. This property could in no way be hypothecated for any other purpose.

#### Endowment Promised.

Recently prominent friends of the college, to the number of fifteen or twenty, had pressed the college upon the Government's attention, and through their efforts the endowment was about to be immediately increased by \$50,000. The tie between the college and the State was being cut when the fortunes of the college were at a higher ebb than ever before. Last year the resident pupils numbered 303, compared with 179 in 1896, and was steadily increasing. This was in spite of an increase in the fee from \$240 to \$300. Last year there was a surplus of \$3,481. This college would compare favorably with English residence schools, and under the new regulations would be modelled in part after Eton, Harrow, Westminster and Rugby. The last clause provided that \$50,000 shall be subscribed for the permanent fund of the college by October 1 next, after which the act will be put into force by proclamation.

#### Mr. Whitney Approves.

Mr. Whitney declared his hearty approval of the bill. He had always thought that such an institution properly managed would be of great value to the people of Ontario. He hoped to live long enough to see some such step, perhaps not so drastic, taken in connection with the university.

Mr. Matheson's bill respecting the Town of Smith's Falls was read a third time and passed.

#### The Printing Contract.

On motion of Premier Ross, the agreement with Warwick Bros. & Rutter for the printing and binding of public documents was adopted. The Premier announced that under this new contract, which was dated July 28, 1899, the printing would be done at about \$10,000 less than under the old one. Mr. Matheson (South Lanark), while declaring that none but an expert could comprehend the details, nevertheless declared that the fact that the various tenders were very close in amount showed that it was probably a better agreement than in former years.