

privilege, said he had been reported in the newspapers as saying before the Railway Committee on Thursday, when the Metropolitan Railway bill was up, that the York County Council had been purchased by the Metropolitan Company. "I want," he said, "to state emphatically that that is a misrepresentation, inadvertently made use of by our press friends. The statement I made use of was that the Metropolitan Railway and the Council were at one in their position before the committee. I desire to make no reflection on the members of the County Council, with whom I have been for years associated."

#### Unclaimed Moneys.

Upon the presentation of the report of the Printing Committee Mr. Carscallen (East Hamilton) asked for the publication in some handy form of the list of unclaimed moneys in the courts, amounting to about \$200,000. After some discussion Hon. Mr. Stratton said the committee would meet again next week, when the subject would be considered.

Mr. Richardson (East York) secured the suspension of the rules of the House for the introduction of a bill respecting the Village of East Toronto. The bill was rejected by the Standing Orders Committee several weeks ago on account of insufficient notice, but that difficulty had been overcome since by notifying all the ratepayers by mail.

#### Fees For Filing Returns.

Mr. Stratton's bill to amend the Ontario companies act was referred back to committee, when a sub-section was added providing that the following schedule of fees should be paid on the filing of returns with the Provincial Secretary:—

Filing the annual statement required of a company having a capital stock of \$50,000 or under, \$2.

Filing the annual statement of a company having a capital stock exceeding \$50,000, but not exceeding \$100,000, \$3.

Filing the annual statement of a company having a capital stock exceeding \$100,000, \$5.

Filing by-law for sale of mining companies' stock at a discount, \$5.

Filing by-law increasing or decreasing number of directors, or changing company's chief place of business, \$2.

Filing any other by-law or document, \$2.

The bill was reported as amended and read a third time and passed.

#### A Slaughter of Innocents.

There were cries of "lost" from every part of the House when Mr. Lumsden, Liberal member for Ottawa, had explained his bill to amend the public health act. It proposed to enable a contagious diseases hospital to be built within 200 feet of a private dwelling, instead of 150 yards, as at present. The City of Ottawa asked for this legislation in order to remove its contagious diseases hospital from its present site on Porter's Island, which is found to be untenable, to an unused burying ground overlooking the Rideau River. The Provincial Secretary declared that to grant Ottawa the power asked for would mean the destruction of one of the finest residential sections at the

capital, while the Attorney-General pronounced the bill outrageous. Accordingly the measure was snowed under.

"I am fallen on evil times," exclaimed Mr. Lumsden as a storm of protests arose over a second bill of which he was sponsor, to repeal the Conmee act. This bill also was given the coup de grace, and a third bill, reducing the property qualification of Aldermen from \$400 to \$200, was despatched with equal promptitude.

#### Clearing the Order Paper.

Bills to amend the assessment act, the ditches and watercourses act and municipal drainage act, standing in the names of Messrs. German, Conmee, Pardee and Taylor, were cleared from the order paper in view of the Government's intention to appoint a commission to deal with assessments. In this way some six or eight bills disappeared.

Mr. Brown's bill to re-unite the north and south ridings of the County of Perth for the purpose of registration of titles received a second reading.

#### Mr. Smith in Hard Luck.

Mr. Smith (Peel) withdrew two bills. One had for its object the nomination of Councillors separately to Town Councils, and their election by acclamation in case of only one nomination. The other sought to abolish the double vote for one candidate which the voter can cast under the present law where there are two County Councillors to be elected. Mr. Smith withdrew the latter bill with much reluctance, and said the next time he brought it in he would insist upon some action being taken.

#### Veterinary Bill Lost.

Mr. German's bill prohibiting persons not registered from practising as veterinary surgeons was lost on division.

#### Approves of Fire Escape.

The Attorney-General expressed approval of the "down drop" or canvas bag system of fire escape, and hoped that if the apparatus was shown to be fire proof, the House would next year make its adoption in place of one of the existing appliances optional. This is an encouragement to Mr. Holmes, who introduced a bill to enable hotels and other institutions to adopt it.

#### Regulating the Railways.

Hon. Mr. Ross moved the second reading of a bill respecting aid to certain railways. It incorporates in the railway act Mr. Preston's resolution providing for the payment of the standard rate of wages on Government works, so that this principle will apply to all railways subsidized by the Government. The bill also provides that alien labor from countries having an alien labor law in operation against Canada shall not be employed on railways receiving Provincial aid, requires supplies for railways to be purchased wherever feasible in Canada, and stipulates that railways bonussed by the Province shall grant special rates to settlers and prospectors.

Mr. Whitney said it had only taken Mr. Ross two weeks to adopt his (Mr. Whitney's) suggestion, and embody the