

The Premier, replying to Mr. Whitney, said that the Government had under consideration the question of increasing the representation of the districts of East Algoma, West Algoma and Nipissing. It had not yet been decided whether a bill to that effect would be introduced during the present session. The districts named represented a great deal more than half of the Province of Ontario, and had been settled to a large extent since the last redistribution bill was before the House. He thought that the representation of the districts ought to be increased. The desire of the Government was to continue to aid, as in the past, the settlement of those districts, and this work could be advanced considerably by proper representation. While the time of the introduction of such a bill had not yet been decided, he hoped that one would be brought before the House before the present Government expired.

The Premier, replying to a second query from Mr. Whitney, said:—The Hon. J. T. Garrow is still a member of the Government.

Imperial Statutes.

Hon. Mr. Gibson, in answer to Mr. Whitney, said that no royal commission or other commission had been issued to any Judges for the purposes of inquiring into and reporting as to what Imperial statutes enacted previous to 1792 are still in force in Ontario. But a committee of Judges had been appointed by an order in Council, with authority to superintend the selection and compilation of Imperial statutes in force in the Province of Ontario, and for which an appropriation was made at the last session. Three Chief Justices, Sir John Boyd, Sir Wm. Ralph Meredith and Chief Justice Falconbridge, with Mr. Justice Moss and Sir Thomas Taylor, late Chief Justice of Manitoba, and now resident in this city, were engaged in the task. The work had been carried out to a great extent, and a bill was to be introduced during the session regarding the compilation. The intention was to have the compilation completed, and to declare by express enactment that outside of the statutes comprised in the compilation none of the Imperial statutes are in force in Ontario. When completed he considered that the work would be a great boon to the ordinary practitioner. Along with the compilation information would be given as to statutes which, while in force in England, were entirely repealed so far as Ontario was concerned. As an illustration of what would be accomplished there were a number of old ecclesiastical acts. These were, in the main, entirely inapplicable, with the exception, perhaps, of one or two limited points. For instance, there was a case of ad-vowson in this city, the Church of the Holy Trinity being the one concerned. Instead of bringing into the compilation a mass of old Imperial statutes, it

was proposed to deal in some cases as in this, by special legislation. The Church of the Holy Trinity, the only church that he knew of which was interested, would be asked to embody in a special act what they desired to retain, and thus give an opportunity for wiping out a mass of obsolete legislation. The Attorney-General stated that Mr. Holmsted, the senior Registrar of the Division Court, was aiding the committee of Judges, who also consulted himself (the speaker) from time to time. The understanding between the Government, the Judges and the Registrar was that while something might be paid in the shape of an honorarium, they were not to regard it as work to be remunerated in an ordinary way, as though they were commissioners.

Fire Escapes.

The Premier, replying to Mr. Crawford, said that the recent fires at Matthews Bros. and the Army and Navy clothing stores, Toronto, where several persons were injured, had not been officially brought to the attention of the Government. Investigation was being made, however, by the proper department. There was a conflict of authority between the city and the Factory Inspectors, and the provisions as to accidents at such fires seemed to be inadequate. It was the intention of the Government to bring down an act during the present session remedying that difficulty, and making provisions which might perhaps prevent such accidents in the future.

Lake Simcoe Fish.

Hon. Mr. Latchford, replying to Mr. Hoyle, said that steps had been taken to insure better enforcement of the fishery regulations in the waters of Lake Simcoe, by prosecuting every offender as soon as the case was brought to the notice of the department or the fisheries officers. The settlement along the lake was pretty thick, and afforded many facilities for transgressions of the law. He was glad to be able to say, however, that the sense of the people along the lake was in favor of stringent enforcement of the law. The reports showed that bass and mas-kinonge in the lake were much more numerous than formerly. Four officers were on guard during the close season, and they had also the assistance of the fishery guardians, as compared with one officer when the lake was under the control of the Dominion. It had been suggested that a small launch be placed on the lake, in charge of one man, who would give his whole time to patrol work. He was unable to say whether this would be any advantage over the present system. The department had under consideration the replenishing of the northern lakes with bass. They were now possessed of information as to where bass for that purpose could be obtained at the least cost and at the nearest point of transportation. During the coming season the department would transport to those waters as large a number of bass as the limited means at their disposal would allow.

The House adjourned at 3.55.