

LAND GRANTS TO VOLUNTEERS.

Recognition of Ontario's Veterans' Services.

THE BILL INTRODUCED.

**Exemption From Taxation For Ten
Years—Budget Speech To-day —
Smallpox Cases of the Year—Notes**

In the Legislature yesterday Hon. Mr. Davis outlined his measure for the appropriation of land for Ontario men who served with the contingents in South Africa, and for those of the 1866 veterans who served on the frontier during the year mentioned. In general terms, the bill provides for the granting of 160 acres of land to men who served in the South African contingents, or those who served as nurse, chaplain or Red Cross Commissioner, or to the next of kin of any such persons who so served and have since died. Regarding the 1866 veterans, it is provided that only those who were actually engaged in defensive service on the frontier shall come under the provisions of the bill. The order paper contained a notice by Mr. Whitney, asking for copies of correspondence between members of the Government and any persons asking grants for the Universities of Toronto or Kingston. Hon. Mr. Harcourt had intended to take the opportunity of making a detailed and definite statement of the Government's policy on the question. He deferred this, however, owing to the absence of the leader of the Opposition, and the statement will likely be made next Wednesday. The Premier will deliver his budget speech this afternoon, and will be followed by Colonel Matheson, the financial critic of the Opposition.

Good Financial Position.

It is expected that the Premier will present a most favorable financial outlook for the present year, as well as recount the successful financial management during the year 1900. The estimated expenditure for this year is \$3,782,000, and it is understood the receipts are expected to reach nearly \$3,800,000, while there is at present a cash balance of \$1,033,000. With the enlarged bank balances of last year it is estimated that the present surplus of assets over liabilities is in the neighborhood of \$2,500,000.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt introduced bills to consolidate and amend the acts respecting the Education Department, the public schools and the high schools. The amendments have not yet been filled in the bill.

Mr. Carscallen introduced a bill to provide for the protection of life and property in the use of stationary boilers and engines, and the examination and licensing of persons in charge of them. The bill provides that only certified engineers shall have control of machinery mentioned, those in charge of agricultural machinery and boilers under fifteen horse-power being exempted.

Land for Volunteers.

Hon. Mr. Davis introduced the bill to provide for the appropriation of certain lands for the volunteers who served in South Africa, and the volunteer militia who served on the frontier in 1866. In introducing the bill he said they all knew that by the war in South Africa an opportunity was given the volunteers in this Province to exhibit their loyalty and devotion to the Crown. They had there reflected credit upon our Province and brought valor and heroism to British arms. The militia were under the control of the Dominion Government, and the conduct of the war under that of the Imperial Government, therefore he supposed it would be proper to assume that any cash assistance by way of pensions or gratuities to those who acted so nobly on behalf of their country would primarily rest with one or other or both of those Governments. However, he thought the proposition in the bill, that some recognition should be given to those volunteers who were enrolled in our own Province in some way by this Legislature, would meet with the unanimous approval of both sides of the House and the unanimous endorsement of the Province.

Terms of the Bill.

The first clause of the bill provided that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council by proclamation might set apart certain lands held by the Crown in the unorganized districts for the purpose of making grants to those engaged in the South African war who were enrolled in our own Province. Those lands would be both in the free grant districts and in those districts where a charge is now made for those who take up land. Evidence will be required that the applicant for such a grant was enrolled in Ontario for active service in South Africa during the years 1899 and 1900. In case of the