

which are not elected by the rate-payers.

The shareholders of the Hamilton, Grimsby & Beamsville Electric Railway ask that the legislation proposed in the interim report of the Assessment Commission shall not go into effect this session. They consider that a fair method of assessment could be arrived at by taking the earning capacity of a company as a basis of taxation; and add that it would be impossible to pay the taxation as proposed by the report mentioned, without reducing the dividends now paid to the shareholders.

Petitions from various electors of the City of Toronto ask that powers be granted to municipalities to introduce the proportional representation system in municipal elections.

Notices of Motion.

The following notices of motion were given:—Mr. Carscallen—Bills to amend the assessment, the municipal, the municipal arbitrations, and the industrial schools acts.

Mr. Lucas—Order for a return of correspondence or other documents concerning the granting or refusing to grant a license to either the British Hotel or the Central Hotel in the Town of Durham during the years 1898 or 1899.

Mr. Wardell—Bill to amend the registry and the municipal acts.

Mr. Beatty (Leeds)—Inquiry of Ministry: Is it the intention of the Government to make the 2,200 square mile timber reserve known as Temagaming Park a Government timber reserve, or is it proposed to sell from time to time timber berths therein?

Mr. Preston—Bill to amend the assessment act.

Tottenham Wants a High School.

Messrs. M. J. Casserly, J. A. Brown and John Lamont of Tottenham waited on the Premier and Hon. Mr. Harcourt yesterday afternoon, and asked for a slight amendment to the high school act in regard to the formation of high school districts, in order that such a school may be established in that town.

Work of Division Courts.

The annual report of the Inspector of Division Courts is now completed, and will shortly be issued. A summary of the report shows that the staff consists of 324 clerks and 364 bailiffs, and against these 198 complaints were made during the year, as compared with 237 in the previous year. The complaints were made on the usual grounds of charging excessive fees; neglecting to make returns or to answer letters, etc. All complaints were investigated immediately on being brought to the attention of the inspector, and matters were set right as speedily as possible. The introduction to the report contains a paragraph warning clerks that they must give notice promptly of all monies paid into court, and delinquents in this respect will be promptly dealt with. Considerable misapprehension exists in the public mind as to the emoluments of the clerks, and in order to dispel the idea that their incomes are large, the following details are given:—There are over 100 clerks whose emoluments are under \$100; about the same number

who receive over \$100 and less than \$200; 42 who receive over \$200 and under \$300; 23 over \$300 and under \$400; 16 over \$400 and under \$500; 9 over \$500 and under \$600; 6 over \$600 and under \$700; 2 over \$700 and under \$800; 3 over \$800 and under \$900; 3 over \$900 and under \$1,000. The above amounts are computed on the gross returns, and the clerks have to pay from them all expenses of office rent, assistance, postage, etc. Then there are the following who receive net incomes to the amount named:—6 over \$1,000 and under \$1,100; 3 over \$1,100 and under \$1,200; 1 over \$1,200 and under \$1,300; 2 over \$1,300 and under \$1,400, and 1 only whose net income reaches nearly \$2,000. The number of suits entered, not including transcripts and judgment summonses, was 38,686, the total amount of claims \$1,202,745, and the actual amount paid into court \$427,511. Over half the cases, however, were settled out of court, so that the real amount paid cannot be given. The duties of the inspector's department increased considerably owing to the opening of new districts. There was a perceptible increase in the business of the courts over previous years. The court rate of interest is now 5, instead of 6 per cent., as formerly.

Appeal of the Barbers.

A deputation from Hamilton representing the local body of the International Barbers' Union of that city waited upon the Premier and the Attorney-General yesterday and asked that the Lord's day act be so amended as to make shaving and hair-cutting on the Sabbath day illegal. In a recent case the Police Magistrate of Hamilton held that a barber was not prohibited, under the act, from following his avocation on Sunday. The deputation, which was introduced by Mr. John Dickenson, M.P.P., consisted of G. Fenton, President of the Hamilton union; Charles Baikie, Treasurer; B. Landers, President of the Trades and Labor Council; W. H. Wardrope, solicitor, of Hamilton, and A. H. Brooker and Carl Trumbell of Toronto.

Cannot Pay Bonus.

A deputation from the Municipality of Neebing, near Fort William, waited on the Premier yesterday and asked that the township be relieved of the obligation to pay a bonus of \$10,500 to the Prince Arthur Landing & Kamistiquia Railway, which was voted in 1876. They stated that their obligations had so increased recently by reason of the settlement of the neighborhood and the construction of colonization roads that it was financially impossible to pay this bonus. The following gentlemen composed the deputation:—Reeve W. F. Piper, Mayor Hogarth and Councillor Dyke, Fort William; Peter McKellar and James Murphy.

The Smallpox Epidemic.

Dr. Bryce has received word of a case of smallpox at Whitney Station, a camp on the Canada Atlantic Railway, east of Algonquin Park. The patient has been isolated, and everybody in the camp, which is now under quarantine, has been vaccinated. The patient