

THURSDAY, MARCH 14.

# COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

Important Step Taken  
by the Provincial  
House.

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Committee Will Also Deal  
With Colonization.

NATURAL GAS EXPORT.

Representatives of the Companies  
Interview the Attorney-General—  
Important Measures For To-day's  
Session.

In the Legislature yesterday Mr. Little's motion for the appointment of a Committee on Agriculture and Colonization was carried unanimously. There was no objection from either side, but an unexpectedly long discussion ensued on the question owing to the introduction of several matters foreign to the resolution. A feature of the debate was the approval of members of the Opposition of the proposals to encour-

age the dead meat and beet-root sugar industries. It is not yet known whether the committee will be appointed during the present session. Before adjournment the Premier stated that the good roads bill and the act for the encouragement of the beet-root sugar industry would be taken up at to-day's session, and if they were advanced a stage the House would begin work on the estimates. He reiterated his previously expressed opinion that the session would conclude before the Easter holidays.

## Bills Introduced.

Mr. Auld (South Essex)—To permit persons to destroy the wood hare or cotton-tail rabbit at any time of the year, and to shorten the open season for quail.

Mr. Carscallen (East Hamilton)—That the parents or guardians of children sent to industrial schools at the expense of municipalities may be compelled on order of a Judge to recoup the municipality. That municipalities may use the services of an arbitrator appointed by order in Council as an alternative to the official Provincial arbitrator.

Mr. Foy (South Toronto)—To authorize municipalities to make provision for the inspection and licensing of laundries.

Mr. Preston (South Brant)—To extend the principle of assessment by wards, if desired, to cities with populations of 15,000 or over.

Mr. Conmee (West Algoma)—To enable municipalities whose drains are obstructed by railways to divert them and charge the cost to the railways.

Mr. Brown (North Perth)—To enable municipalities which have abandoned the ward system to readopt it.

## Beet-root Sugar.

Hon. Mr. Dryden, replying to Mr. Duff, gave particulars of the services and pay of the commissioners sent to Michigan to investigate the beet-root sugar industry. Messrs. Anderson and Lundy, he said, each received \$95, and Mr. G. C. Creelman, who made an independent investigation, received no remuneration from the Government.

## Blinder Twine.

Hon. Mr. Stratton, replying to Mr. Brown, said that the quantity of blinder twine manufactured at the Central Prison during the years 1899 and 1900 was 527,483 pounds. Of this 48,170 pounds was sold direct to farmers during the years named. All orders received from farmers were promptly filled, the unsold portion being utilized in the manufacture of lath twine and rope. In 1899 pure Manila twine was sold at ten cents per pound. In 1900 there were two grades manufactured, consequently there were two prices, some of it being sold at nine and one-half cents per pound and some of it at eleven cents per pound, according to the mixture. The actual cost per pound