

SUGAR BEET

BILL PASSES.

Second Reading Unopposed in the Legislature.

BUSINESS BEING PUSHED.

Committee on Good Roads Bill Will Hear Many Opinions—An Evening on the Estimates.

The bill to set apart \$75,000 a year for the encouragement of the sugar beet industry passed its second reading in the Legislature without any discussion, after Hon. Mr. Dryden had spoken in its support. The House performed an excellent day's work, clearing many important items from the order paper. The evening was spent on the estimates, fair progress being made. An indication of the approaching end of the session is furnished in a notice of motion by the Premier that on and after Monday next Government business shall have precedence.

Would Not Suspend Rules.

On a motion by Mr. Conmee (West Algoma) to suspend the rules to allow the introduction of a bill respecting the Town of Rat Portage, the Attorney-General entered a protest against continuous departure from the rules. In the present case he understood that the bill proposed to authorize the municipality to expropriate the electric lighting works, the agreement with the owning company being about to expire. There was also, he believed, considerable opposition to the proposal. The rules of the House should not be suspended unless a good case was made out. Mr. Whitney concurred in this view. Dr. McKay said that the petition for the bill came before the Standing Orders Committee and was

not considered owing to its irregularity. Mr. Conmee said that the municipality was very anxious to obtain the proposed legislation, and the petition for the bill had been delayed through delays of the mails and in other ways. Hon. Mr. Gibson thought the town would not suffer if the legislation asked was not granted until next year. The resolution was finally declared lost on a division.

Beet Sugar Bill.

Hon. Mr. Dryden, in moving the second reading of the bill for the encouragement of the beet sugar industry, said that for the past thirteen or fourteen years sugar beets had been grown in Ontario to a greater or less extent. Last year, however, the first definite tests were made with a view to ascertaining the exact prospects of the industry. A number of plots were sown at Welland, at Aylmer and at Newmarket. In briefly summing up the results of these tests, Mr. Dryden said the highest yield was 30 tons to an acre on one of the Aylmer plots; the second highest, 25 1-2 tons, at Newmarket; the third, 24 tons, at Welland. The lowest yield was 4 1-2 tons, on a Welland plot, but the probable reason was not poor soil, but because the farmer did not pay proper attention to the work. The average yield for the whole was 18 tons per acre, which was certainly a very good yield. A Newmarket plot led with 17.2 per cent. of saccharine matter, Welland with 16.8 and Aylmer 16.1, while the lowest was 9 per cent., at Aylmer. The highest percentage of purity was 89.5, at Aylmer, while Newmarket followed with 88.8 and Welland 88.4, and the average was 84. Such returns were eminently satisfactory. The average cost per acre was \$28.70, and the average profit on the yield \$43 an acre. It was thus established that we could grow the beets satisfactorily, but there was no market for them.

Large Capital Needed.

The capital required for a sugar beet factory plant was very large, about \$500,000 to \$800,000, to make it meet with success. The reports of the commissioners who investigated the subject for the Government showed that in Michigan there was general satisfaction with the industry. Experience had shown that during the first year the manufacturers suffered more or less loss; in the second year they gained something by the farmers' previous experience, while in the third year the factory was almost certain to be a success. To run an ordinary factory, costing about \$500,000 or \$600,000, a large supply of water was an important consideration. A convenient supply of fuel was also necessary, as 10,000 tons of coal was needed per year and 2,000 tons of lime. An abundant supply of beets and good transportation facilities to get them to the factory were imperatively needed. He thought that beets could be hauled by rail 40, 50 or 60 miles to a factory, provided pro-