

metallurgical industries of the northern part of the Province.

Mr. Whitney said that the bill certainly had some desirable qualities, because the President of the Manufacturers' Association approved of it. Such a law existed in British Columbia, and had not been disallowed by the Federal Government. If the bill had some defects they could be remedied, but the principle was a worthy one.

Mr. Conmee (West Algoma) said few Canadians cared to work as navvies, which work was largely done by foreigners. The bill if properly amended could do considerable good. For twenty years he had been an employer of labor, and could never get Italians, Scandinavians or other foreigners to work at less wages than Canadians.

#### Must be Careful.

The Premier pointed out that Italians were not aliens in the sense meant by Mr. Wardell, as Italy had no law excluding Canadian workmen. There were many large industries being established here, for which trained Americans would be brought in to work by the capitalists establishing them. The Government were quite anxious to see that the workmen of Canada especially were reasonably protected. We had, however, derived a great deal of profit in the past, and would in the years to come, from capital invested here by Americans. The legislation of last session with reference to the employment of workmen and purchase of supplies by railways had been very comprehensive, and had been observed by the lines affected, the Algoma Central and the Rainy River Railways.

Hon. Mr. Latchford pointed out that the United States, which was especially aimed at by the bill, did not exclude Canadians, but prevented the bringing into the United States "of aliens under a contract to employ them there."

Mr. Wardell pressed his motion, and it was laid over to be voted on on Wednesday next.

Mr. Macdiarmid's (West Elgin) bill, providing for further notices on the posting of voters' lists, was read a second time.

#### Are Drunkards Competent?

Mr. Lumsden (Ottawa) moved the second reading of his bill respecting habitual drunkards. It provides that any person who is proven before a competent court to be an habitual drunkard shall not have a right to manage or dispose of any real or personal estate. Such an order might be issued on petition of his or her husband or wife, any blood relation, relation by marriage, or by any public officer. Mr. Lumsden said some such a law was in force in Manitoba and in Quebec, with great advantage.

Hon. Mr. Stratton said that while we all acknowledged and regretted the excess to which intoxicating liquors were used, public opinion would not sustain a measure which went so far as the one proposed. Some men who were habitually drunk were not incapable of managing their affairs. A great deal of injury might be done by the enforcement of such an act on unsatisfactory evidence.

Mr. Crawford (West Toronto) thought that if it could be proved that a man or woman was a habitual drunkard it would be a grand thing to say to them they were not capable of transacting their own or anybody else's business. Such a law on the statute book would have a great restraining influence. The principle of the bill was a good one, and he would like to see it go to committee.

Mr. Whitney said such a measure was too large to be considered now. It should be carefully and critically reviewed by all the Judges of the land.

The Premier said it was a bill which should be before the House for some time before action was taken. It involved the freedom of his Majesty's subjects. It would be most difficult to put into operation. If some measure could be found that would be effective and within the range of public opinion and practicable, both sides would concur in passing it.

Mr. Lumsden expressed pleasure at the opinions given, and withdrew the bill.

The House adjourned at 6.05.

#### Notices of Motion.

The Attorney-General—Bill entitled the "Statute Law Revision Act."

Mr. Matheson—Act to amend the general road companies act.

Mr. Matheson will ask for the names of all parties tendering for coal required for the London Asylum, the Hamilton Asylum and the Brantford Institution for the Blind, and other like details.

#### The A. O. F. Bill.

The bill respecting the Ancient Order of Foresters, against which a number of petitions have been received by the Legislature, was amended and reported by the Private Bills Committee yesterday. A large number of Foresters, representing both views, were present, and a warm discussion took place.

Mr. Louis F. Heyd, K.C., in presenting the views of the promoters of the bill, said it was intended to effect the transfer of all the assets, rights, credits, effects and property from the old Provincial corporation, or the original incorporated body of the order, to the Dominion incorporation, who take the place of the former in executive power, since the incorporation under Dominion laws.

Mr. Robert Groves, District Deputy Chief Ranger of the A. O. F. for East Toronto, objected to the bill, on the ground that proper consideration of it had not been given by the members. The Ontario act gave the members privileges which the Dominion act did not give. He thought the members would not have the security under the Dominion laws of keeping the sick and funeral benefit funds separate from the insurance funds.

Mr. Heyd said the Dominion act provided there should be a sick and funeral benefit fund. The whole principle of the legislation sought was represented in the Independent Order of Foresters.

Mr. J. S. Williams said he interpreted the bill as vesting in the High Court all the assets, etc., of the order. It would affect the funds of the subordinate courts. The bill should be