

Carscallen mildly criticized some of its clauses, while Mr. Pattullo and Mr. Gross suggested that it be held over till another session. Col. Gibson, however, announced his determination to press the bill. On a motion to go into Supply the Opposition began at a late hour a debate on settlement regulations, which resulted in a division at 12.30.

The Companies Act.

Hon. Mr. Stratton's bill to amend the Ontario companies act was taken up in committee, and Mr. Stratton introduced an amendment, so that the annual meeting of shareholders of concerns doing business under Provincial charters must be held within the boundaries of the Province, unless otherwise provided for in the original charter or supplementary letters patent.

Col. Matheson (South Lanark) opposed the proposal to give to new companies the names of companies now out of existence. It would be unfair, he argued, to give to new organizations the names of concerns which had perhaps been widely advertised at considerable cost.

Hon. Mr. Stratton said that there were on the rolls of the department 5,000 companies, of which about 3,000 were not doing business. Of this 3,000 a large number were defunct. Their officers or directors could not be found in most cases. It was simply desired to authorize the department to give to other concerns names now tied up.

Mr. Foy (South Toronto) suggested that the present act be amended by providing that names might be given to new companies if, after sending registered letters to the officers or directors of defunct concerns whose names appeared on the last Government return, no replies were received.

Mr. Carscallen thought the bill encroached too far on the rights of companies.

The bill will be further considered in committee.

Factories and Boilers.

Mr. Dryden's bill to further improve the factories act underwent some amendment. The word "fireproof" was struck out of the phrase requiring a separate building for storage of inflammable material when not in use. It was also amended by Mr. Dryden, so as to require inspection of boilers not insured in a boiler inspection company by an inspector, who has had charge of a boiler and engine for not less than five years, or who holds a certificate as a stationary engineer.

Mr. Carscallen said boilers should be required to be inspected each year.

Mr. Whitney and Mr. Conmee expressed the view that the compulsory inspection would close up hundreds of shops.

Some further general discussion followed, and the clause passed. Mr. Dryden amended the clause making fire escapes compulsory on factories, so as to apply to buildings of over two stories instead of over one story.

Mr. Crawford (West Toronto) thought some provision should be added for stirring up the factory inspectors to their duties.

Mr. Dryden—We will find some other way of doing that.

The bill was reported with amendments.

The Premier's bill to provide for the better auditing of the accounts of the Province was reported without amendment.

Law Reform Bill.

Hon. Mr. Gibson, in moving the second reading of his bill respecting legal procedure and County Courts' jurisdiction, said that, so far as he had been able to learn, the bill had in some respects at all events been received with very great satisfaction. Prior to the introduction of the bill he had received a great many expressions of opinion from the High and County Court Judges, and from the law associations of the Province, which were invited to give their views. He was not sure but it would be wise to have those replies prepared and laid before the members of the House, to give them the same advantage he himself possessed with reference to the opinions of many of those interested. The opinions were naturally conflicting, but there was a pretty general agreement that there should be no increase in Division Court jurisdiction, that to do so would seriously interfere with the efficiency of what was called the poor man's court. The effect of increasing the jurisdiction would be to entail on Judges greatly increased work. The increasing of jurisdiction would also entail the employment of shorthand reporters, and increase the formalities of the court. Not only the Division Court Judges, but the law associations, seemed practically a unit against the proposal. It might be said that they were interested parties, but, on the other hand, it was fair to say that there was no popular demand for a change in this direction. He did not know how much truth there might be in the charges that only those directly interested, such as Division Court Clerks, etc., were at the bottom of the agitation. There might be some truth in the accusations.

County Court Jurisdiction.

On the question of increasing the jurisdiction of the County Court, he said there might be some objection, and doubtless would, because the measure would necessarily be arbitrary. The increase of values, and the fact that County Court Judges were often without employment were good arguments for a change. The time of High Court Judges was completely taken up, and many cases were always awaiting them. It must be plain, too, that on the score of local convenience alone a great benefit would accrue. Many cases could under the increased jurisdiction be disposed of without waiting for the periodical sittings of the High Court. A certain amount of objection had been made to this proposition, on the ground that the material of the County Court judiciary was not high enough to cope with the widened powers. That was a matter of opinion. A line could not be