

POWERS OF EXEMPTION.

Municipal Councils and
Public Franchises.

THE PREMIER'S BILL.

Sharp Discussion in the Legislature
—Radical Changes in the Good
Roads Bill.

One of the sharpest debates of the session, though a comparatively brief one, took place in the Legislature yesterday on the motion for the second reading of the Premier's bill to amend the municipal act. The bill allows Municipal Councils to pass by-laws, without the assent of the ratepayers, remitting taxation or fixing the rate of assessment for a period not exceeding three years of persons operating public franchises. The Premier briefly explained the terms of the measure, which Mr. Whitney said was deserving of more condemnation than any measure introduced since Confederation. The debate was continued by several other members, and the bill finally passed its second reading without a division. Before adjournment Mr. Whitney quoted from a newspaper to the effect that the Mayor of Port Arthur was of opinion that a bill providing for new electoral divisions in Algoma would soon be introduced. The Premier answered that no bill of such a nature would be brought