

To amend the act respecting the licensing of extra Provincial corporations—Mr. Stratton.

To amend the Ontario fisheries act—Mr. Latchford.

A large number of private bills were advanced a stage in addition to those read a third time.

The House adjourned at 9.50.

Schomberg & Aurora Railway.

The Private Bills Committee's room of the Legislature was crowded yesterday morning with a large deputation from the Township of King, in the riding which Hon. E. J. Davis represents. The cause was the consideration of a private bill to confirm a by-law, and an agreement between the municipality and the Schomberg & Aurora Railway Co.,

made in 1897, according to the by-law. The bill further ratified certain levies which had been knocked out by the Court of Appeal. When the agreement was made with the railway nothing was said as to when it would be constructed, but the bill provides that the company must commence the construction on May 15th next, and complete it by October 1st. The road is about fourteen miles in length.

The bill was finally laid over until Tuesday next.

THE CITY DEFEATED.

Municipal Committee of the Legislature Takes Back a Previous Vote and Defeats the City.

In the Municipal Committee yesterday Col. Leys' bill regarding the drainage of railway lands was deferred until Tuesday. Another bill by the same member, giving power to municipalities to regulate the use of milk tickets, coupons, etc., was approved of. Colonel Leys, in speaking to the bill, said it was desirable that there should be some method of stopping the use of coupons and tickets, which, from frequent handling, became filthy, and undoubtedly conveyed germs of diseases.

The committee then decided to reconsider those clauses of Mr. Marter's bill, which provide for the freeing of Toronto from the provisions of the Conmee act. Mr. H. S. Osler, for the Gas Company, said that the bill was of a private nature, affecting only Toronto, and was aimed at the company he represented. Between the city and the company there was litigation, and there were also negotiations going on for purchase of the gas plant. There never had been a serious proposition that the city should build its own plant. The corporation, however, was seeking, under the bill, to hold the company by the throat, and depreciate the value of the property they desired to buy.

Mr. Conmee, M.P.P., thought that the committee should vote on the principle of repealing or retaining the so-called Conmee clauses. They should either be retained, and if so should be made applicable to the City of Toronto, or should be wiped out altogether.

Mr. E. F. B. Johnston, K.C., for the Electric Light Company, said that the question as affecting that company should be dealt with separately. This was concurred in.

City Counsel Fullerton quoted the original legislation which brought the gas company into existence. The company, he contended, was established with the consent of the Aldermen for the purpose of providing cheap gas. The original act also gave power to establish another company. He quoted from the financial statements of the company to support his argument that, instead of applying profits to lower the price of gas, the company was piling up a big reserve fund, and at the same time paying its 10 per cent. dividends. Toronto should not be left at the mercy of a monopoly. It was not possible to go ahead and deal with the gas company under the provisions of the Conmee bill. They could arbitrate, perhaps, but he did not think that any

satisfactory arrangement could be arrived at.

Ex-Ald. F. S. Spence said that the Conmee bill took away from the city its rights to protect consumers from a monopoly. The Conmee act ought not to be allowed to interfere with contracts entered into before its passage.

Mr. Marter also spoke, and, the motion being put to a vote, the clause was struck off the bill on the following division:—

Shall the clause be made applicable to the Gas Company:—

Nays—Ayiesworth, Barber, Beatty (Parry Sound), Blezard, Bowman, Bridgland, Douglas, Kribs, Lumsden, Mutrie, Macdiarmid, McKay, McKee, Pettypiece—14.

Yeas—Brown, Carscallen, Crawford, Duff, Foy, Gross, Hoyle, Marter, McLaughlin, Pardo, Pyne, Taylor—12.

The clauses relating to the electric light company were thrown out without any further discussion.