

NO ELECTION THIS YEAR.

Term of the Legislature
to be Extended.

DEBATE ON SMALL LOGS.

**Mr. Miscampbell's Amendment De-
feated—Important Provisions in
Bill For Railway Grants.**

Reassembling after the Easter recess the Legislature transacted a good deal of routine business yesterday, and gave fair promise of a conclusion this week. The Premier introduced a bill to extend the duration of the present Legislature long enough into 1902 to enable a session to be concluded next winter. This bill disposes of the rumors of an early election. On the motion to go into supply in the evening Mr. Miscampbell moved an amendment, regretting the cutting of logs under ten inches in diameter at the small end. A short debate followed, resulting in the defeat of the amendment by 41 to 31. The Metropolitan Railway bill comes up again before the Railway Committee at 10 o'clock this morning.

The Life of Parliament.

The Premier introduced a bill providing that Parliament shall not expire until the next session of the House is completed. He explained that under the act Parliament expired on March 29th next. As the session did not begin until about February 1st, that would make it impossible to complete business before the natural expiration of Parliament. The bill provided for this difficulty by enacting that Parliament do not expire before the close of next session.

Third Readings.

The following bills were read a third time and passed:—

Respecting summary convictions—Mr. Gibson.

Respecting the Guelph Railway Company—Mr. Mutrie.

To amend the Ontario fisheries act, 1900—Mr. Latchford.

To incorporate the London, Aylmer & North Shore Electric Railway Company—Mr. Taylor.

Respecting certain by-laws concerning drainage in the Townships of Tilbury West, Tilbury North, Tilbury East, Romney and Mersea—Mr. Auld.

Respecting the Niagara Falls Park & River Railway Company—Mr. Gross.

To authorize the City of Ottawa to issue certain debentures—Mr. Powell.

To incorporate the Chippewa & Niagara Falls Electric Railway Company—Mr. Gross.

To further improve the factories act—Mr. Dryden.

Is the Bill Ultra Vires ?

Upon the motion for the second reading of the bill respecting the Union Station at Toronto, Mr. Foy (South Toronto) raised the point that such an act was not within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Legislature. The agreement between the railways for the erection of the station, he said, was ratified by the Dominion Parliament, and the act declared that all works affected by the agreement were for the general advantage of Canada. According to the British North America act, all matters for the general advantage of Canada came under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament, and the Ontario Legislature had no jurisdiction there at all. Moreover, it was provided that the provisions of the railway act governed the Union Station, and that provided for having persons in charge of the station and grounds. It was clear that the station and the works there were declared to be for the general advantage of Canada, and under the British North America act the Province had no jurisdiction there.

A Municipal Aspect.

Hon. Mr. Gibson would not just then express any opinion upon the point raised. The question of jurisdiction of the House over Dominion railways, so declared, was very plain where questions arose respecting their property. Here, however, a different question perhaps arose. This bill did not necessarily affect the property of the company. It affected the control of employees, passengers and others coming upon the companies' premises in a way that was related to municipal control rather than railway control in the ordinary sense of the term. He promised to give the point some consideration.

The bill was given its second reading.

Municipal Amendments.

The municipal amendment act was again taken up in committee. Hon. Mr. Gibson introduced an amendment giving considerably wider powers to arbitrators employed in connection with the separation of farm lands from urban municipalities.

A clause was inserted by Hon. Mr. Stratton, with a view to enabling any municipality or two or more municipi-