

palities in Ontario to enter into an agreement with the National Sanitarium Association for the establishment and maintenance by the association of sanatoria for the treatment of consumptives, giving this association the same powers and privileges afforded by the municipal sanatoria act of last session.

The bill was reported as amended.

Technical School Bill.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt's measure respecting technical schools was withdrawn. The measure provided for the establishment of technical schools by High School Boards, and set forth the regulations which should govern such action.

Conditions of Railway Aid.

The House went into committee on Hon. Mr. Latchford's bill providing for cash aid for certain railways.

Col. Matheson (South Lanark) and Mr. Kidd (Carleton) pointed out that the line from Bolton Creek to the Lanark iron mines was in reality a link in another line between Toronto and Ottawa, and suggested that the aid be extended for a greater mileage of the line.

Hon. Mr. Latchford introduced verbal amendments to make it clear that the Government shall have power at any time after ten years to acquire or expropriate any or all of the lines aided under the bill; also enacting that there should be no secret special rates, rebates, drawbacks or concessions to favored shippers, nor any act that will affect free competition on any of the lines so aided. Another clause requires the various lines to carry roadmaking material for improving the local roads, at the actual cost of handling and carriage.

The bill was reported as amended.

Cutting of Small Pine.

On the motion to go into Committee of Supply Mr. Miscampbell (East Simcoe) moved the following amendment: "That this House regrets that provision has not been made for the preventing of the cutting for sawlog purposes of small pine logs of less than ten inches at the small end."

Speaking to the resolution, Mr. Miscampbell said there was an increase in growth in pine. The largest portion of the Provincial revenue from any one department came from Crown lands. To-day we cut our pine down to six inches or less. What did the Government receive on these small trees? On logs sixteen feet long and six inches in diameter, dues on only four feet of lumber; seven inches, nine feet; eight inches, sixteen feet; nine inches, twenty-five feet. Many lumbermen said it did not pay them to cut those small trees. Notwithstanding the verbal reports given in the House, they had not received a detailed statement of the explorations of last year. He declared it was a physical impossibility for the exploration parties to estimate the pine at three billion feet, as they had done, in the time at their disposal.

Refused Access to Books.

Mr. Miscampbell then referred to the report of the Financial Commission, the members of which had sub-let their

work to other persons. They had not examined the books of the Treasury Department at all. The report of the commission was, therefore, incorrect. Continuing, he declared that a few weeks ago he had been refused access to the books of the Crown Lands Department on applying to the Commissioner of Crown Lands. Were they afraid he would see something he should not see? As a member of the House he claimed he was entitled to have access to those books. It was not a close corporation. In concluding Mr. Miscampbell said it was evident the handwriting was on the wall. (Opposition applause.)

A Flippant Criticism.

Hon. Mr. Davis, in reply, dealt with the closing part of Mr. Miscampbell's remarks. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Miscampbell) seemed to throw great doubt upon the financial report of the Province. The men selected to make the investigation and report were men of ability and standing, and it was remarkable to find anyone dealing with their work in so flippant a manner. The hon. gentleman had charged that the commissioners had not examined every item in the departments, but had deputed this work to other persons. This was the usual method followed in such cases. But it did not follow that the commissioners were any the less responsible for the correctness of the report. He dealt with the manner in which the accounts were audited, and

showed that all items were carefully scrutinized and examined by the Provincial Auditor, who was, as they all knew, a most capable, efficient and honest official.

Continuing, Mr. Davis spoke of the charge that he had refused Mr. Miscampbell access to the books of the department. He considered it surprising that the hon. gentleman had considered it necessary to make such a statement on the floor of the House. The hon. gentleman had come to him (Mr. Davis) and asked to see a certain account in the ledger. On being asked what particular account he wished to see he had refused to give the name of the person or firm, or any other information as to what he desired in connection with that account. Mr. Davis had then suggested that the desired information be sought for in the way of a request for a return. This Mr. Miscampbell had also refused to do. Under the circumstances Mr. Davis had complied with what he believed to be the usual Parliamentary procedure by refusing to allow the hon. gentleman, who seemed ashamed to give any particulars, to go through the books. The insinuation that members of the Government were using their positions to advance their own interests was emphatically denied by the speaker, who stated that the whole aim of the Government was to work for and advance the interests of the people. He concluded by referring to the steps taken by the Government to preserve the timber wealth of the country in the way of reforestry, fire-rang and other ways.