

The Huron Registrarship.

In reply to a question by Mr. Eilber (South Huron), Hon. Mr. Gibson said:—
“A registrar has not yet been appointed for the County of Huron, which has been vacant since January, 1899. In large counties divided into two or three constituencies there is frequently experienced a difficulty in deciding as to the locality from which appointments shall from time to time be made. The duties of the position, however, have been efficiently discharged during the vacancy by a competent ex-officio registrar, and it is not expected that there will be much further delay in making a permanent appointment.”

Gratuities in the Service.

The Premier, replying to Mr. Little (Cardwell), said that in 1898 it was provided, “where any person shall after the first day of January, 1898, become a member of the civil or public service of the Province of Ontario, he shall not be entitled to a retiring allowance upon retiring from such service, nor shall his family be entitled to any such allowance in the case of the death of such civil or public servant.” The civil servants who may receive or whose families may receive gratuities upon death or retirement were those appointed on or before the first of January, 1898.

The W. A. Scott Claims.

Hon. Mr. Gibson informed Mr. Blezard (East Peterboro') that a report had been received from the Judges to whom was referred the matter of alleged illegal returns of pine and other timber cut by the late W. A. Scott between 1865 and 1871, and added that it would be presented to the House in due course.

Suits Against Municipalities.

Dr. Barr (Dufferin) moved the second reading of his bill to amend the municipal act, providing that application may be made to the court for security for costs in cases of proceedings against a municipality. He said many such actions were of a trivial character, and such a provision would be a safeguard to the municipality, for which there was a wide demand.

Hon. Mr. Gibson admitted that many municipalities suffered from trivial actions, but it also occurred to individuals every day in the year, and he did not see why municipalities should be any better provided for than individuals. On the other hand, under such a provision many a claimant rightly entitled to damages would practically be denied any redress. Sometimes people went too far in bringing actions against municipalities, and not only juries but Judges seemed very prone to give their verdict in favor of the individual and against the municipality. He thought the House was not prepared at the present time to come to the relief of municipal corporations to the exclusion of individuals.

Mr. Pattullo (North Oxford) admitted that many municipalities had grievances of the kind described, but recommended for consideration a clause which was struck out of the good roads bill last year, providing that municipalities should not be liable for damages for accidents on roads when they had been kept up to a certain standard of repair.

Hon. Mr. Stratton said Dr. Barr's bill would take away from the poor man the remedy which he now possessed in cases of substantial grievance. He would practically have to submit to two trials.

Mr. Whitney Condemns It.

Mr. Whitney said there was no doubt Dr. Barr represented a very strong opinion in this Province. It had, however, been the boast of British institutions that the poor and the rich were equal before the courts. To every ten verdicts against municipalities there were 25 against individuals. Why should lack of money be considered a disqualification in the effort to get justice? They should be very careful in changing the law unless they were prepared to make a thorough change.

Loan Company Investments.

Mr. Preston (South Brant), in moving the second reading of his bill to amend the loan corporations act, explained that the measure proposed a further extension of the powers of these organizations. The investments of loan companies were for a long time confined to municipal debentures and mortgages on real estate. Two years ago, after careful investigation, they were given powers to invest in terminating debentures of gas, telephone, telegraph and electric lighting companies, and banks and other loan companies. It was now proposed to allow them to invest in the terminating debentures of iron, coal and steel companies, and he even thought that these powers might be extended so as to allow investment in the debentures of beet sugar and pulp industries.

Hon. Mr. Gibson said that companies dealing in the supplying of gas, heat, light, water, etc., to municipalities were necessarily of a more permanent character than those engaged in the iron, coal or steel business, and the former were not subjected to the vicissitudes of the latter. He would like to know what the general view of shareholders in these loan companies was, and if the bill were allowed to stand for a week or ten days an idea of this might be ob-

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