

THE HEARING IS BAD.

MR. LEE POINTS OUT A LEGISLATURE DEFICIENCY.

Government Opposed to Limiting Power of Library and Park Boards—Attorney-General on the Municipal Coal Yard Proposal.

The usually dull Monday afternoon session of the Legislature was brightened by a bit of pleasantries, mixed with truth, concerning the hearing facilities of the chamber, the bad qualities of which were heralded by Mr. Lee of Kent. A discussion on Mr. Carscallen's bills giving the municipal Councils in cities of less than 100,000 power to revise the estimates of the Public Libraries and Parks Boards elicited the Government's opposition to that principle, though the bills were referred to committee.

Hon. Mr. Dryden's bill amending the agriculture and arts act by some technical changes in regard to the poultry associations, and providing for the organization of women's institutes for the purpose of improving rural home life, was given a third reading.

Members Cannot Hear.

Mr. Lee (East Kent) asked:—Is it the intention of the Government to make such changes in the arrangement of the seats in the Legislative chamber so as to enable the members in all parts thereof to hear more distinctly the business before the Legislature?

The Premier replied:—It is not the intention of the Government to make any changes in the Legislative chamber just now. I have no doubt the facilities for hearing could be improved, but the matter will stand over for future consideration.

Mr. Lee—I cannot hear half of what is said in the chamber.

Mr. Whitney—And I might also say that the less my hon. friend (the Premier) hears of what hon. gentlemen have to say the better pleased he would be. (Laughter.)

Mr. Lee—One hon. gentleman said he would trust to the Lord and Hon. Geo. W. Ross and go ahead. (Laughter.) For my part, I do not intend to go on that way. (Renewed laughter.) The same applies to the members on the other side. The hearing would be much improved if the leaders on both sides sat in the centre of the front row instead of near the Speaker.