

COUNTY COUNCIL LAW CHANGES.

Partial Reversion to Old System of Election.

THE ACT TO BE OPTIONAL.

Legislature Debates Mr. Taylor's Bill.

Changes in Assessment and Municipal Acts—Charges Made Against Magistrate Young of Rat Portage.

Private members had a day to themselves in the Legislature yesterday, and many bills were advanced a stage. A lengthy discussion took place on Mr. W. H. Taylor's bill to amend the County Councils act, by making a reversion to the old system of appointment optional. Premier Ross said he was in favor of the bill, and thought the optional principle would meet the demand of public opinion in many quarters. In saying that, the Government were not necessarily retreating from their former position. Mr. Whitney said the reform being made

asked Mr. E. A. Little (Cardwell) asked when the Committee on Agriculture and Colonization would be called together. He said their services might be of value in considering the routes of new railways in the newer districts. It seemed to him that agriculture had not been fairly treated in this respect. Mr. Dryden replied there would be no difficulty in calling the committee together. It could be called to-morrow or next day.

Mr. Lee's Pointed Question.

The House put through a number of private bills in committee. While the bill respecting the London, Parkhill & Grand Bend Electric Railway was being considered, Mr. John Lee (East Kent) rose and said that though he did not know whether he was in order, he thought so many railway bills were being put through by promoters they should put up a deposit to show they meant business. He suggested \$100 a mile for every mile of railroad they proposed to build. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Whitney—Don't you think \$5 would be enough in many cases? (Laughter.)

The matter was not further pursued.

Province's Bank Accounts.

Mr. Ross informed Dr. Beattie Nesbitt (North Toronto):—The departments of the Government do not keep separate banking accounts, but pay all revenue into the Treasury Department, which deposits in the following banks: Commerce, Ontario, Toronto, Standard, Sovereign, Imperial, Traders', Metropolitan, and the Toronto branches of the Banks of Hamilton, Union, Royal and Ottawa. There were no deposits made by the Government in the Royal and Ottawa in 1902. The rate of interest on all these special deposits is 3 per cent., but no interest is allowed on current accounts.

Mr. Dryden, replying to a question by Mr. Carnegie, said that the duties of the Advisory Board of the Ontario Agricultural College were fixed by statute, and were to advise and assist