

the Minister of Agriculture in the management of the college and farm. The board has held two meetings in the last five years. Their remuneration is \$4 per day and travelling expenses.

Charge Against a Magistrate.

Mr. Lucas asked: (1) Have any charges against William Young, a Police Magistrate at Rat Portage, been made to the Government or to any official thereof? (2) If so, has any investigation of the charges, or report upon them, been made? (3) Is the said William Young still acting as a Magistrate in that district?

Col. Gibson replied:—Complaint was first made in 1901, and Mr. Fleming, Inspector of Legal Offices, was directed in January, 1902, to investigate. He reported no evidence to substantiate the charges. Subsequently a more formal charge was made in April, 1902, and Mr. Fleming again investigated. No report was made, as Mr. Fleming died shortly afterwards. The charges, however, were denied explicitly by Mr. Young, Inspector Rogers, being at Rat Portage, made inquiries, but was unable to obtain any evidence supporting the charges, certain parties who had previously written about the matter declining to give any information. The formal complaint purported to be sent by J. O. Merkley, but Inspector Rogers was unable to find any such person. The charges against Mr. Young being largely of a personal character, it would seem that the papers relating to the matter should not be made public.

County Council Membership.

Mr. W. H. Taylor (North Middlesex) moved the second reading of a bill to amend the County Councils act. The principal feature of the bill is to make the Reeves of townships and villages and the Mayors of towns members of the County Council. Under the present system the Reeves were not in a position to make a statement of expenditures to the people at the nomination meetings. Since the old system of Deputy Reeves had been done away with the Reeves had lost their touch with county affairs. The people were not taking their former interest in County Council nominations.

The bill provides that the County Councils shall be composed of Reeves of townships and villages and Mayors of towns if the Council of a local municipality within the county wish it. In every question arising in a County Council constituted in this way, and involving an expenditure of over \$5,000 for purposes other than current expenses, the result shall be decided by adding together the equalized assessments of the municipalities whose representatives vote for such expenditure and against it respectively.

Mr. H. Eilber (South Huron) agreed heartily with the principle of the bill, and thought it was similar to one that had been introduced from the Opposition side of the House last year.

Mr. W. H. Hoyle (North Ontario) believed the bill complied with a very strong public opinion.

Mr. J. F. Gross (Welland) said that his county was well pleased with the present system. The bill, however, was permissive, and if other counties wanted the change he would not object to the bill.

Dr. Barr (Dufferin) thought the bill was an important one, upon which the Government should take a position. He believed that it was identical with one introduced last year by himself.

Present Law Saves Money.

Mr. Wm. Rickard (West Durham) said that the questions of public expenditure were not so much discussed under the old system as they were now. Under the old system there were 52 members in the united Counties Council of Durham and Northumberland. Under the present system better work was done more expeditiously and economically than formerly by a Council of 24 members. The present bill, however, did not, he believed, go back entirely to the old system.

Mr. John Lee (East Kent) considered the bill a step in the right direction.

Mr. J. J. Preston (East Durham)

favoured the bill.

Mr. A. Pattullo (North Oxford) thought that on all matters of money expenditure the Reeves should vote as per the assessment of their municipalities. The general proposition, he thought, would commend itself to many counties, and doubtless many of them would take advantage of the new provisions.

Dr. W. A. Willoughby (East Northumberland) said sentiment in his county was very much against the present County Council law. He would not, however, go back entirely to the old system. The present law emasculated municipal Councils and held out no reward for their members.

Mr. Dryden, while not assuming to speak for the Government, said the lack of interest in municipal Councils was not due to the reconstruction of the County Councils, but to the fact that the work before them had changed. The present law had been rendered desirable through the fact that many of the older questions of importance had been disposed of. The bill should go to the committee.

Mr. Whitney said that while Mr. Dryden did not assume to speak for the Government he nevertheless did speak for the Government.

The Premier Approves.

Mr. Ross said it was not a Government bill, and, although theoretically the Government was responsible for all legislation, still we were very democratic. For himself, he liked the bill very much. The option which the bill proposed would meet the public opinion of some counties as against the present system. Welland seemed to favor the present system, but his own County of Middlesex, he thought, would adopt in its entirety the new bill. The bill could certainly do no harm as he understood it. For the first year or two the present law had reduced the expenses of County Councils, but that was not the case later on. The members of a County Council were the better for having had experience. It was proper that the Reeve of a township having, say, \$3,000,000 assessment should have a larger voice in certain matters than the representative of the small village with only \$300,000 assessment, while in regard to the appointment of small officials it was well they should stand on a parity. It would be well for the bill to go to the Municipal Committee. The Government had no apology to make for the present law. They were not retreating necessarily from their position. If they were he did not think they would be blame-worthy, as public opinion ranged itself along new lines, and they should be prepared to let public opinion have its way so long as no wrong was done.

Make the Laws General.

Mr. Whitney thought the Government's attitude toward the bill was strange, as every bill that went to its second reading did so only on the expressed approval of the Government. He could see no use, when they were all convinced of the propriety of taking a certain course, in taking little mincing steps. It had been openly admitted by the Government last year that the people were dissatisfied with the present law, and the new Parliament were expected to make a change. He had never heard one word in defence of the present law except within the walls of this House.

Taxation of School Lands.

Mr. T. H. Preston (South Brant) moved the second reading of his bill

to amend the assessment act, providing that school lands, not belonging to the municipality or only temporarily used for school purposes shall be assessable for local improvements; also that all lands which may be exempt from local improvements when the rate for such is struck shall become assessable thereafter if the purpose for which they are used is changed. It also gives to towns the privilege now enjoyed by cities of appointing other than Councillors as a Court of Revision.

Col. Gibson had no objection to the bill going to committee, although he had heard no great demand for it.

The bill was referred to the special assessment committee.

Revision of Voters' List.

Mr. T. H. Preston also moved the second reading of his bill to amend the voters' list act. The law, he said, directs that the voters' list in cities must be published within thirty days, without waiting for the revision of the roll, and if any person by appeal to the Court of Revision is added to the assessment roll there is no provision for adding the name to the voters' list without another appeal to the County Judge. This would seem to be unnecessary, and the proposed amendment is to allow the Judge to make alterations in the voters' list corresponding with the amendments made to the assessment roll.

Mr. St. John thought there was too much tinkering with the municipal and assessment acts. He believed that the law was satisfactory as it now stood. The bill would provide that voters' lists could be altered without notice, and therefore should not pass.

Col. Gibson said he would hesitate a long time before enabling Judges to make changes on the voters' list without the parties being present. He did not think the measure a very important one, and suggested that it be allowed to stand over.

At the suggestion of the Premier the bill was withdrawn.

Park Commissioners' Powers.

Mr. Whitney moved the second reading of his bill to amend the statute law of 62 Victoria by striking out the provision which gives the Niagara Park Commissioners authority to enter into agreements for the development of power without the ratification of the Legislature.

Mr. Ross said there was no objection to the bill being referred to the Legal Committee. He did not think it would be possible to do exactly as his hon. friend proposed, but the Government had no objection to the amendment of the law so that agreements shall be subject to the ratification of the House.

Machine Voting.

Mr. Pettypiece (East Lambton) moved the second reading of his bill to permit municipalities to use voting machines, repealing the bill passed two years ago, and making certain changes.

Mr. Whitney thought they should not take up much time in discussing those machine methods. (Laughter.) There was danger of the machine breaking down in the middle of the day, and then where would they be?

The bill was read a second time.

Mr. St. John moved the second reading of a bill to amend the municipal act to enable township residents to have improvements made to their roads as local improvements. The second reading was carried.

Mr. Foy moved the second reading of an act to amend the assessment act. The House adjourned at 5.30 p.m.