

AMENDING THE GOOD ROADS LAW.

Premier Introduces a Bill to Give Counties Wider Powers.

MAY BUY TOLL ROADS.

Government Grant to Extend to Such Roads With Conditions.

Ottawa's Bill to Prevent Crowding on Street Cars Killed on Second Reading—Mr. Nesbitt's Bill to Extend Franchise and Reduce Voting Qualification Goes to Committee.

The Legislature sat for a little over an hour yesterday and transacted a quantity of routine business. The Premier introduced four public bills, the most important being one to amend the act for the improvement of public highways. The new bill abolishes the provision that when a system of county roads is adopted, in order to obtain the Government's grant the mileage shall be based on acreage. County Councils are allowed to lay out such systems as they see fit. County Councils will also be able to buy up toll roads whether they form a complete county system or not, and draw the Government's grant so far as it goes for such purpose, arranging to pay the municipalities not directly interested in them a sum to which they may be entitled on the basis of their assessment. The time in which County Council may take advantage of the act is to be extended.

Improve Niagara's Banks.

Another bill introduced by Premier Ross aims at preventing the washing away of the banks of the Niagara River from Chippawa to Fort Erie, and provides for widening and improving the roadways, and authorizing the Victoria Park Commission to make an agreement with a company to provide for the construction and operation of an electric railway from Chippawa to Fort Erie.

The Premier introduced a bill also as an amendment to the municipal act, to provide that no person shall be disqualified from being elected a member of any municipal corporation by reason of any contract or agreement granting exemption from taxation.

To Prevent Gambling at Fairs.

The fourth bill introduced by the Premier provides for important changes in the act relating to circuses and shows. The Provincial license is increased from \$50 to \$100. The license may be withdrawn if gambling or games of chance are found in the show. The penalties for infringement of the law are increased, the minimum from \$100 to \$200 and the maximum from \$200 to \$300 and imprisonment from 30 days to three months. Under the new law Dominion and Provincial detectives will have free access to all games, theatres and public gatherings.

Mr. Joynt moved the second reading of a bill providing a fine of from \$5 to \$25 for practising veterinary, medicine or surgery without a diploma. The motion carried.

Inalienable Right to Crowd.

Mr. Powell moved the second reading of a bill intrusted to him by the

Council of Ottawa, to regulate the number of passengers to be carried in street cars and to provide rules for the prevention of overcrowding. Hon. Mr. Gibson said the proposed legislation would refer mostly to the hours when people returned from work. He believed the people would rebel were they not allowed the privilege of crowding the street cars at that time. To interfere with the luxury of crowding street cars would be an invasion of the rights of citizens as British subjects. The bill was lost on division.

Mr. Little (Cardwell) moved the second reading of a bill to amend the municipal act, making townships liable to keep roads in repair only to the width of two rods. The bill was read a second time.

Franchise for Women.

Dr. Nesbitt moved the second reading of a bill to amend the municipal act, giving City Councils the right to abolish the property qualification of all candidates for the position of Mayor and Aldermen, other than the qualification of being a person entitled to vote at municipal elections. The bill also proposes to reduce the property and income qualifications from \$400 to \$200, and to give women the right to vote upon a property qualification, whether married or not.

Mr. Gibson thought the bill included features which should go to committee. He was greatly opposed to any reduction of the qualification of voters. He thought that the manhood suffrage act had done great harm to the country. The larger part of the purchasable vote had been thus included. He had a similar view of the registration of voters act. The bill included some elaborate provisions also regarding the transmission of electricity, which, though largely similar to some of the proposals in the Premier's power bill, might well go to committee.

Mr. Whitney announced himself as opposed to the bill. He did not agree entirely with Col. Gibson's objection to the franchise law, but commended the spirit of the hon. member's objections. The bill received the second reading.

The House went into Committee of the Whole and reported a number of bills without amendment. A number of bills also were read a second time.

May Discuss Power To-day.

Mr. Ross announced that he had hoped to have the House go into committee on his power bill yesterday, but as the representatives of several western towns were to be here on Monday for the purpose of discussing the matter, it would be well to postpone the final stage of the bill until Tuesday, and perhaps discuss it for half an hour in committee to-day. To-day he hoped the House would be able to dispose of a quantity of other business, and go into supply, sitting until probably half-past 10 at night.

Questions Answered.

Mr. Latchford, in answer to Mr. Carnegie, said that the amount of revenue received from woods and forests in East Victoria was \$9,920.85 in 1898, \$40,784.16 in 1899, \$10,575.09 in 1901 and \$11,250.94 in 1902.

The House adjourned at a quarter to 5 o'clock.

Railway Committee.

The Railway Committee yesterday passed three bills—one to incorporate the Stratford Radial Railway, one to incorporate the Sarnia, Petrolia & St. Thomas Railway, and one to enable the Colonial Cement Company to construct a tramway to their mineral deposits in Keffel Township. The Sarnia & Petrolia Co. asked bonding powers to the extent of \$25,000 a mile, and they were reduced to the usual \$20,000.

LIMITING ASSESSMENT

LEGISLATURE ASKED TO RESTRAIN TOWN OF MIDLAND.

Playfair Assessment \$10,000—Aluminum Money — Scadding Bill Thrown Out—Peterboro' Subject to General Act Relating to Power.

The Private Bills Committee of the Legislature did not reach the consideration of the City of Toronto's bill yesterday, and it will be taken up this morning. Most of yesterday's session was given to the consideration of a bill introduced by Mr. Tudhope in the interest of James Playfair of Midland, with a view to compelling the Town of Midland to carry out an assessment agreement made in 1894. In that year the town agreed that if Mr. Playfair would purchase and operate to its full capacity the British Canadian Mill, the assessment of the entire property for ten years would be limited to \$10,000 for all purposes. That was lived up to till 1900, when, with the consent of Mr. Playfair, the assessment was increased to \$13,000, and last year, without his consent, it was raised to \$68,750. The proposed bill provided that all the property of Mr. Playfair in the Town of Midland should be assessed for all purposes, including local improvement taxes, at \$10,000 for the years 1902, 1903 and 1904. R. A. Grant, of Kerr, Macdonald & Co., appeared for Mr. Playfair. Mr. W. Finlayson of Midland, for the town, as an excuse for the municipality breaking its illegal agreement with Mr. Playfair, asserted that the lumbermen had broken an agreement regarding the establishment of a waterworks system. He stated, too, that in violation of the spirit of the agreement, the Playfair Company had established a store in competition with other business men, and the monthly bills of the mill employees were deducted from their wages, and that they circulated for coin of the realm aluminum money that was good only at one or two places.

The bill was amended so as to include school taxes, and to exclude from its provisions Mr. Playfair's own residence.

A bill relating to the assessment of Tew Bros. of Midland was passed by consent.

The bill relating to the power privileges of the Town of Peterboro' was amended so as to make the proposed general law applicable, and the proposal that the town own the poles or conduits for carrying electric wires in the streets was, at the suggestion of the Attorney-General, put over for a year, to give the existing companies a chance to get together and arrange to get along with one set of poles.

The bill to enable F. C. Scadding to practice dentistry in Ontario without taking the usual examinations was thrown out.