

## HOUSE DISCUSSED GRUESOME TOPIC.

### Disposal of Unclaimed Bodies at Charitable Institutions.

### BRIDGEBURG POOLROOM.

### Government Has Ordered a Special Investigation.

### Inspector Christie's Report on the Causes of Insanity—Game Com- mission's Report — Proposal to Charge for Killing Any Species of Game.

The only discussion in the Legislature yesterday was on the gruesome topic of the proper provision of "subjects" for the medical colleges. It arose on the second reading of the bill of Mr. Hislop of East Huron, leaving it to the discretion of the Warden of a municipality as to whether an unclaimed body of a deceased inmate of a House of Refuge or House of Industry shall be turned over to the Inspector of Anatomy. The present anatomy act, Mr. Hislop pointed out, provided that if a body is not claimed within 24 hours it is the duty of the authorities to hand it over to the Inspector of Anatomy for the use of the medical colleges for dissecting purposes. This, he said, was a condition of affairs that ought not to exist. If an inmate of an institution had some friends outside his body was given decent burial, but if the poor unfortunate should happen to have no friends his body was turned over to the colleges.

#### Return to Body-snatching.

Dr. Willoughby said he was very sorry the bill had been introduced. It was purely a sentimental objection. No good object would be served by the measure. The medical colleges had to have material for the students to work upon, and if they did not get it legally as at present, they would have to return to the old-fashioned illegal way. "I know how little material there is now for the colleges," he remarked, gravely, "and if you cut off the existing source of supply they will be compelled to go out and desecrate the graveyards as they did in my early days." This confession of the Conservative Whip was received with laughter.

Hon. Mr. Stratton said he had a great deal of sympathy with the object of the mover and the bill, but pointed out that in the past whenever the inmate of an institution had expressed a wish to the chief officer that his body be not sent to the dissecting table the department had always interceded. When no such wish was expressed the body went to the Inspector of Anatomy for the purposes of medical science. The colleges would be deprived of from 40 to 50 per cent. of the "subjects" they now received if discretionary power were given to the Wardens and managers of institutions, because they would use that power in only one way.

Dr. Barr and Dr. Reaume agreed

that the bill would result in a return to body-snatching.

#### A Cruel Practice.

Mr. S. Clark thought the bill should receive very serious consideration. Some members of the Legislature might find themselves later on in the poorhouse, and the prospect of being sent eventually to the dissecting table was not pleasant. It was possible their friends might not turn up within 24 hours to claim their bodies. The medical profession might themselves supply the demand for subjects by ordering in their wills such disposal of their bodies. He did not know but that body-snatching was preferable to the present system, for when in life their owners did not know what was in store for them after death, whereas the inmates of institutions knew before their decease that their bodies would go to the dissecting table. It was a cruel custom.

Mr. Hanna suggested that "it might be a good thing for the medical authorities to get these fellows when they come back to vote."

Hon. Mr. Gibson thought the bill should go to committee, where, after discussion, some way of arriving at the object of the mover might be found more satisfactory than giving discretionary powers to the Wardens and managers of institutions.

The bill was then read a second time.

Two bills of Mr. Dickenson, one to amend the statute law amendment act, and the other respecting innkeepers, were also read a second time. The former goes to the Municipal Committee.

The House then went into committee of the whole, and reported several private bills.

#### Poolroom at Bridgeburg?

Mr. Whitney called attention to a communication in the press, stating that a poolroom was in operation at Bridgeburg, near Fort Erie.

Hon. Mr. Gibson replied that inquiries had been made of the officers at Bridgeburg, who stated that nothing was known of such a concern. However, the communication printed in the newspapers contained so many circumstantial details that a thorough investigation had been ordered. If the law was being transgressed instructions would, of course, be given to follow the matter up.

The Commissioner of Public Works placed on the table a profile of sixty-eight miles of the extension of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway, and a plan of the trial location from New Liskeard to Lake Kenogami, a distance of fifty-eight miles.

#### Trust Funds Statement.

The Premier informed Mr. Foy that in connection with the trust and common school funds the amounts due to Ontario from the Dominion and the amounts withheld were:—1900, due \$355,469.15, withheld \$31,827.29; 1901, due \$311,632.14, withheld \$90,499.68; 1902, due \$309,696.17, withheld \$92,200.60. In 1903 and 1904 to date the payments have been made in full. The amounts so withheld during 1900, 1901

and 1902 were applied in diminishing the debt owing by Ontario to the Dominion, the charges for interest decreasing accordingly.

#### School Land Receipts.

The Premier informed Mr. Reid that since confederation from sales of common school lands the total receipts were \$1,383,849.91; there was retained for management \$83,030.99, and there was distributed to municipalities re land improvement fund \$240,021.23. Of the \$124,685.18 held by the Dominion in trust re land improvement, distributions of \$123,368.46 were made between 1882 and 1887. Interest was also paid in 1886 and 1887 amounting to \$91,475.54.

#### Security Considered Ample.

Hon. Mr. Davis informed Mr. Hendrie that from 1900 to 1903, inclusive, the Lake Superior Power Company and its allied and subsidiary companies cut on lands in Algoma 36,275,204 feet, board measure, of pine sawlogs, 3,555,005 feet, board measure, of sawlogs other than pine, 84,815 cords of pulpwood, 124,123 cords of charcoal wood, 403,736 railway ties, 4,208 telegraph poles and 231 cedar posts. The company owed to the Province for timber dues, rentals, stumpage, etc., \$175,839.92. The security in pine timber, sawlogs, etc., was estimated at \$244,400. Part of the timber having been sold and in process of delivery, the department stopped shipments. The Imperial Bank undertook, however, to pay in the proceeds of the timber sold, and shipping was again allowed. On account of this \$58,542 had been deposited to the account in the bank. The department had consented that the receiver use part of the pulpwood in order to allow the works to be started at a rate of \$1 a cord. During November, December and January 4,500 cords were used and \$4,500 deposited to the credit of the department. In all \$63,042 had been paid in in reduction of the liability. The pine, lumber, sawlogs, pulpwood, etc., were still under lien and considered ample security for the balance of the debt.

Hon. Mr. Davis informed Mr. J. J. Foy that \$4,500 had been received on account by the Crown in 1903 from pulpwood under agreements with various persons or companies.

#### Backus' Associates Americans.

Hon. E. J. Davis informed Mr. Matheson that the Department of Crown Lands had no official knowledge as to the parties associated with Mr. E. W. Backus in the purchase of the waterpower at Fort Frances. It was believed that they were persons already interested with him in business. So far as the department knew, they were residents of the United States. The department had no knowledge of any member of the House being interested in the agreement.

Hon. Mr. Davis informed Mr. Foy that no change of rates had been made by the Lieut.-Governor in Council with respect to any pulp concessions which had been granted.

The Premier informed Mr. Gallagher as to the names of petitioners to the Government during 1901, 1902 and 1903 for aid for colonization roads and bridges in Frontenac and the number of petitions granted. In 1900 there were seven applications and three granted, in 1901 fifteen applications and