

## NEW DIVISION OF HIGH COURT

**Will Soon be Created Says the  
Attorney-General.**

**GOOD PROGRESS IN SUPPLY**

**Price Paid For London Asylum  
Farm Criticized.**

**Temperance Bill Will Not be Brought  
Down Before the End of Next  
Week—Grant to Varsity Convo-  
cation Hall.**

The Legislature spent the greater portion of yesterday afternoon in supply and made considerable progress with the estimates. A lively discussion took place in regard to the price paid for the farm in connection with the London Asylum. The Attorney-General announced that the new division of the High Court would be created very shortly, and that a small vote would be included in the supplementaries to meet the cost. Mr. Gibson subsequently informed The Globe that he was expecting the Dominion authorities would appoint a Judge any day now. The Premier informed Mr. Whitney that the temperance bill would not be brought down before the end of next week.

Premier Ross' bill to amend the law respecting the security of public officers, and Hon. Mr. Harcourt's measure to enable high schools to charge fees for books at 25 cents a month, were put through committee.

**Cost of London Asylum Farm.**

In supply the items, legislation \$185,450, administration of justice \$478,297, education \$989,154, were passed, and good progress was made with the vote for public institutions maintenance until Mr. Hanna expressed surprise at the cost of the London Asylum farm, starting a discussion which lasted nearly an hour. The farm consists of 235 acres, and the price paid was \$23,000. Mr. Hanna asked whether it was not a fact that before the purchase a valuator had estimated that the farm was worth \$13,000. Hon. Mr. Stratton said this was not true, whereupon Mr. Hanna asserted that the farm was not worth more than \$50 per acre, and \$15,000 would be an outside price. The Government had previously been renting the farm for \$300 per annum.

Hon. Mr. Gibson admitted that the Government was very often unable to make as good a bargain when buying lands as two private individuals could. Undoubtedly the land at London had been purchased more cheaply than if they had done it through arbitration. Take any expropriation for railway purposes that had been made recently in the Niagara Peninsula, the price was never less than \$100 per acre.

Mr. Beck said he would be sorry to make a statement that would tend to depreciate the value of land in London, but the farmers in the neighborhood had told him that \$50 per acre would have been a high price for this property.

**A Sporting Proposition.**

Hon. Mr. Stratton was emphatic in his declaration that the farm was well worth what had been paid for it. He

would be quite willing to take it himself, and he would undertake that in five years the front part of it alone could be disposed of for the amount given for the whole.

Mr. Hanna—That's a good sporting proposition.

Dr. Routledge, the member for East Middlesex, here entering the House, Colonel Matheson appealed to him for his opinion. Considering its location, the land was worth anywhere from \$80 to \$100 per acre, he said.

Mr. Whitney—How does it come that the whole 230 acres was rented for \$300?

Hon. Mr. Stratton replied that the person owning the land had not farmed it for years, and he had allowed the asylum to have the use of it for a number of years at a nominal rental. A friend resided in a house on the farm, and it was well known that the owner was holding the land expecting it would appreciate. The Government could not renew the lease, and it was important that it should not get into other hands. Sir John Carling had five years ago been paid \$300 per acre for land not as adjacent to the city as this.

**Increased Sessional Indemnity.**

The legislation item included the increased sessional indemnity to the members who now receive \$1,000 a session instead of \$800. There was no criticism of this increase.

An increase of \$6,000 in printing and stationery was the subject of a question by Mr. Matheson, who suggested that it was the result of the recent printing and paper contracts. The Premier corrected him, saying that the cost was largely the result of extra printing. In connection with the new division of the High Court the Attorney-General said there would probably be a small supplementary lump vote found necessary. He thought, however, that no new officials would be needed.

Mr. Matheson drew attention to the item of \$1,600 salary for the Magistrate for southern Nipissing. He received a number of fees in addition and was also engaged in business. His

salary should not be greater than that of the northern Magistrate, which was \$750. Hon. Mr. Gibson agreed to some extent, and promised to look into the matter.

Mr. Matheson wanted to know whether the Government had considered the question of forming counties in the northern districts.

Hon. Mr. Gibson said the Government had often discussed the subject, and had almost come to the conclusion to leave it to be taken up in the distant future, when their successors would have to grapple with it.

On the item for libraries Mr. Whitney urged that in the supplementaries the Government provide for a special grant of \$1,000 to the Canadian Reading Camps Association.

In regard to the Government grant of \$50,000 to University Convocation Hall, the Premier told Mr. Whitney that if the university people desired there might be no objection to paying over the lump sum instead of spreading it over five years.

**Street Railway Bill.**

Mr. J. J. Foy introduced a bill to enable the Toronto Railway Company to form a reserve fund out of surplus earnings, for the purpose of protecting the shareholders when the franchise expires; also giving power to invest in stocks and bonds of other companies, and to guarantee the stocks and bonds of other companies, with a view to operating radial lines. These powers are to be exercised by the Board of Directors.

Messrs. J. S. Hendrie (Hamilton) and M. G. Cameron were added to the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. H. J. Pettypiece, M.P.P. (East Lambton) will give three addresses upon railway taxation next week. On Wednesday he will address the Hamilton Canadian Club, on Friday the East York Farmers' Association at Agincourt, and on Saturday the North Ontario Farmers' Association at Cannington.

**The Speaker's Dinner.**

## AGAINST SUNDAY CARS.

**A RAILWAY BILL AMENDED  
BY THE COMMITTEE.**

**Hamilton, Grimsby & Beamsville  
Company's Bill Amended—Right  
to Build Branch Lines Refused.**

The Hamilton, Grimsby & Beamsville Company's bill was put through by the Railway Committee of the Legislature yesterday with a few amendments. The company asked for power to build branch lines not exceeding six miles, and this clause was struck out, as no details were given as to the locality of the branches. The company's representative explained the location to the committee, but, as the municipalities concerned had not been given any notice, the clause was considered an objectionable one.

The company also wanted power to acquire lands for parks or pleasure grounds, up to 300 acres. This was refused.

The Windsor, Essex, & Lake Shore Rapid Railway Company's bill was also amended. The company is given power to increase its capital from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. Further increases will be valid on a two-thirds vote of the shareholders. The company gets power also to extend its line from its present terminus at the village of Wheatley, in Essex county, to Chatham. The extension is to be commenced within two years and completed within five years from the passing of the act. There was a clause in the bill giving the company power to run a certain number of trains daily. This would have included the right to run on Sundays. A clause was inserted to prevent the running of Sunday cars. The company wanted the right to operate for fifty years, but it was reduced to twenty years.