

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1904.

SECURITY MUST BE GILT-EDGED

Or Government Will Not Press
"Soo" Guarantee.

A LIQUOR LICENSE BILL

Will Soon be Introduced by the
Government.

Messrs. Conmee and Bowman Attack-
ed by Mr. Hanna—Cumulative
Voting For Boards of Education
—Bills Advanced a Stage..

"The securities which we will hold must be gilt-edged," said the Premier yesterday in the Legislature, referring to the guarantee of interest on \$2,000,000 which the Government proposed to make in aid of the "Soo" industries. "There must be no incumbrance or any difficulty about any part or phrase of the bargain," he continued. "It must be as safe a transaction as a loan to the Bank of England. We propose to take no risks, and will not ask the House to take any. The ground is clear in some respects, but not in others. I hope to be able to satisfy the House that it is clear entirely before asking it to proceed with the bill."

It is understood that a liquor license bill will be introduced by the Government next week or, if not then, immediately after the Easter vacation. It is believed that the bill will contain nearly all the suggestions of those who have given the most careful attention to the administration of the liquor license laws.

Mr. Hanna's Request.

Mr. Hanna brought up the "Soo" matter by moving for a return showing the names of the allied industries, and copies of the mortgage, promissory notes, stock certificates, trust deeds and other documents connected therewith. He declared that Messrs. James Conmee and C. M. Bowman, contractors for the road, were so much interested in the matter that they were disqualified from voting on that bill. The Premier had stated that these gentlemen's qualifications as members were not affected. If the Premier continued to maintain this position he (Mr. Hanna) would appeal to the Speaker for a decision. He read the statement of claim which was made by Messrs. Conmee and Bowman in their action against the company, which was admitted by the company, and upon which the judgment was based. The answer that these gentlemen made was that they had sub-let to Foley Bros., whose contract relieved them for responsibility to that extent. He contended that there was no sub-letting of contract at all, but a partnership arrangement with Foley Bros., with a share in the profits, and that they could not vote for a bill which would guarantee the pay-

ment of every dollar of a claim which otherwise would not be worth 25 cents on the dollar.

Government Not Committed.

The Premier said that the return would be brought down at the earliest possible moment. Some of the information had been prepared. Some of it was in Philadelphia. All the information would be laid on the table. He did not want to proceed with another stage of the bill until the House was thoroughly informed, as it ought to be. That was due to the House, and the Government hoped to satisfy everyone that they had carefully carried out their promise. In fact the Government would have brought down the information in any case, even if it had not been asked for. Regarding the statement he made the other day that Messrs. Conmee and Bowman were amply secured for their claim, he was not sure that it had been controverted by Mr. Hanna, but this was not the time to argue that.

Mr. Whitney remarked that the least scintilla of interest would disqualify these gentlemen as much as if they had no security at all.

The Premier, in reply to Mr. Foy, said that the Government were not yet committed to the guarantee. The negotiations are not yet entirely closed. The ground has been cleared in some respects, but not in others. The Government would not commit themselves if there was the slightest suspicion on title or certificate, or any form or phase of the bargain. The motion was then carried.

Mr. Hanna had a number of questions as to the relations between Mr. Conmee, M.P.P., and Mr. Bowman, M.P.P., and the Algoma Central Railway, but the Speaker remarked that these gentlemen were not in the House.

Mr. Hanna said that they were out in the corridor, and Hon. Mr. Gibson suggested that he might go out there and put the question. Mr. Hanna said that he would let the question stand until the gentlemen came in.

Questions and Returns.

Mr. Hoyle was informed by the Premier that it is not the intention of the Government to introduce this session legislation granting financial aid to the development of the pot fuel industry.

Mr. Powell was informed by the Attorney-General that the fines imposed by the Police Magistrate of Ottawa under the criminal code and paid over to the Provincial Treasurer were \$1,119 in 1901, \$956 in 1902 and \$912 in 1903.

Mr. Truax informed Mr. Dunlop that the "Soo" companies are not in any way indebted to him.

Mr. Kidd obtained an order for a return showing the names of all persons convicted for violation of the liquor license act in Carleton during 1901, 1902 and 1903.

Mr. Jessop obtained an order for a return, giving all payments made by the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park Commissioners for 1903.

Mr. Matheson obtained an order for a return of the correspondence in connection with a mining claim in the Township of Hutton.

Bills Advanced.

Hon. Mr. Gibson introduced a bill to amend the Ontario game protection act.

The following bills were read a third time:—Respecting the Muskoka Lakes Navigation & Hotel Co.; to further extend the powers of the Consumers' Gas Co.; to incorporate the Village of Chatsworth; respecting the Windsor, Essex & Lake Shore Rapid Railway Co.; respecting the London, Aylmer & North Shore Electric Railway Co.; respecting the Town of Perth electric system.

Dr. Nesbitt's bill to abolish cumulative voting for Boards of Education in cities was referred to the Legal Committee, and a number of bills were advanced a stage.

The House adjourned at 4.50.