

# LIMIT OF DELAY FOR BYE-ELECTIONS.

## Legislature Decides Upon Three Months.

## TAXATION BILL PASSED.

## Discussion on the Cattle at Guelph College.

## House Spent a Day at Routine—Revision of Lists in Unorganized Districts—Clergymen Ask for Suppression of Boxing Contests.

The Legislature yesterday varied the "Soo" aid debate with a day at routine, marked by two important events—the third reading and final disposal of the municipal taxation bill, and the decision agreed to by both sides of the House that the writ for a bye-election must not be delayed longer than three months after a seat becomes vacant.

### Coal Dealers and Telegraph Co.'s.

Before the municipal taxation bill finally passed its third reading two important amendments were made. The coal dealers had made a hard fight on other stages of the bill against being assessed for the business tax on a sum equal to 50 per cent. of their assessed value, but were twice defeated. Mr. St. John on the third reading proposed that an exception be made in the case of Toronto. He was supported by the other Toronto members, and by a vote of 31 to 15 coal dealers in cities over 100,000 were placed on a 30 per cent. basis.

Hon. Mr. Gibson said that he was satisfied from representations made to him by Mr. Dwight for the G. N. W. Telegraph Company and Mr. MacMurchy for the C. P. R. Telegraph Company that the proposed assessment of telegraph companies was too high. He thought that the telephone companies would be satisfied to pay a good round sum to get rid of recent harassing troubles, but proposed that the assessment of telegraph companies be reduced from 60 per cent. to 50 per cent. of their gross receipts in cities, towns and villages, and from \$60 to \$40 per mile of single wire in townships. The House was unanimous on this, and applauded loudly when the Speaker declared the bill read a third time.

The following bills were read a third time:—To amend the judicature act; respecting municipal taxation; respecting the Toronto Suburban Railway; respecting statute labor; to amend the law in connection with the revision of the assessment act; respecting the municipality of Sault Ste. Marie. A number of other bills were advanced a stage.

### Time Limit For Bye-elections.

The most interesting bit of business of the afternoon was the fixing of the time within which a bye-election must be held in the case of a seat in the Legislature from any cause becoming vacant. The matter was dealt with in section six of the bill to further amend the statute law as follows:—

"In case the seat of any member of the Legislative Assembly is vacated for any cause, if the writ for the election of a new member has not issued within — months after such vacancy occurred, it shall be the duty of the

Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to issue the writ forthwith, and all courts, officers and persons shall give full effect to the writ so issued."

The question was what figure to put in the blank. The Attorney-General said the Premier had suggested three months, but he thought that was too short. Mr. Whitney said he did not know what to make it. The limits of the discussion were three and six months, the object being to avoid on the one hand too long delay, and on the other an inconvenient time for an election. At last the Attorney-General thought it might be left open, the pressure of public opinion being depended on to prevent a seat remaining open too long.

Premier Ross—The 267th day.  
Mr. Whitney—I don't think that would do. We've had some experience of that.

Hon. Mr. Gibson—Well, we've had the worst of it.

Premier Ross said they wanted to prevent what might be a public scandal and also an election in too short a time. Mr. Whitney had come to the conclusion that the possibility of inconvenience was not lessened by increasing the time, and decided in favor of three months. The Premier and At-

torney-General agreed to that, and it was passed.

Another clause of the bill was passed, providing that in organized districts the voters' lists should be revised biennially, but if at the time of an election the lists would otherwise be more than a year old, a special revision shall be held.

One new clause provided that any member of a county Council should be considered a "friend" within the act of any person who might die in a public institution, and should be allowed to remove the body for interment.

### Witnesses Need Not Answer.

The clause introduced at the instance of Toronto, to the effect that no person shall be excused from answering any question in an official investigation upon the ground that it might tend to incriminate him, was allowed to stand. The Attorney-General said that he was in communication with the Minister of Justice regarding it, and Mr. Whitney objected that it would lead to perjury. The bill was then reported.

The Premier, in moving the second reading of the bill to encourage the sugar-beet industry by extending for two years longer the bounty of \$75,000 per year, said that ought to be the limit. In answer to a question, he said the farmers who sold to the Warton factory had not been paid for their beets, but a trustee was appointed a week or ten days ago, who would receive the bounty for distribution. As he had heard nothing about the Wallaceburg, Berlin and Dresden factories, he presumed the farmers there had been paid. The bill was then read.

### The O. A. C.

The House then went into supply on agricultural estimates. Mr. Downey (South Wellington), instead of criticizing expenditure, earnestly advocated increased expenditure on the Guelph Agricultural College. The Government, he asserted, should approach the affairs of the college with a broader and more liberal spirit. The herds of cattle were not what they ought to be. He was often ashamed of them in taking visitors through the college. He wanted better buildings and improvement of the various departments.

Mr. Crawford (West Toronto) then objected, because of an increase of \$500 in the cost of meat for the year. He was informed also that the lowest tender for meat was not always accepted.

Hon. Mr. Dryden told him he had been misinformed.

Mr. Little (Cardwell) wanted to know about the condition of the herds at the Model Farm. He had seen cattle from there, he said, that were a disgrace.

Hon. Mr. Dryden explained that the college could not hope to compete with men who made a specialty of a certain kind of herd and paid enormous sums for additions. What was aimed at for the Model Farm was an average class of cattle of as many kinds as possible. Just at present some improvement of the herds would be advantageous.

Mr. St. John (West York) wanted the Government to go into stock-breeding on a large scale to improve the stock of the country.

Hon. Mr. Dryden told him it was entirely impracticable.

Mr. Downey said he did not agree with Mr. St. John.

The House adjourned at 11.10.

### To Prevent Boxing Contests.

The Attorney-General received a deputation from the Toronto Ministerial Association, consisting of Rev. J. W. Peasley, Rev. J. B. Kennedy and Rev. I. M. Moyer, who asked that the municipal act be amended so as to prevent boxing contests where entrance fees are charged, and to transfer from the Chief of Police the sole right to allow such contests to the municipal Councils, giving the Mayor or Reeve the right to decide.

Owing to the advanced stage of the session it is not likely that anything can be done this year. The Attorney-General promised to see that prize-fights at Fort Erie are stopped, but pointed out that the first request was unreasonable, for it would prevent an assault-arms or a genuine amateur sparring contest, both of which were desirable forms of athletic entertainment.