

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1905.

WILL DEAL WITH THE POOL ROOM.

A Significant Remark Made by Premier Whitney.

TEMISKAMING RAILWAY.

The Government Policy is Not Yet Decided.

The Report of the Parliamentary Librarian Deals With the Necessity for Some Improvements—Railway Taxation Committee's Report Expected To-day.

Pending the bringing down of the estimates and the deliverance of the budget speech, the Sessions of the Legislature continue to be somewhat brief. That of yesterday was as short as its predecessors of the week. Immediately after adjournment the Cabinet again met for a final consideration of the estimates, which Hon. Colonel Matheson has promised to bring down to-morrow. The Premier's reply to a question of privilege by Dr. Lewis indicated that the Government intends to deal with the Junction pool-room.

Dr. Smellie's bill to compel those in charge of stationary engines to be in possession of certificates showing them to be competent was read a first time.

No Reply to Subsidy Request.

Premier Whitney, answering Mr. Macdiarmid, said no reply had been received by the Government, or, as far as they could ascertain, by their predecessors from the Dominion Government, in reply to a memorial passed by the House in March, 1904, relating to a subsidy towards the construction of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway.

The Temiskaming Railway.

Hon. Dr. Reaume, replying to Mr. Harcourt, said the Government were not yet in a position to announce their policy as to that part of the Temiskaming Railway now in running order, nor as to leasing or operating the road on its completion.

Pool-room at the Junction.

Dr. Lewis, on a question of privilege, asked if the Government were aware that a pool-room was in operation at Toronto Junction in the guise of an athletic club. It was simply a place for the making of bets. He admitted that racing promoted the breeding of horses, and it was in the interests of farmers and others. Racing could not be carried on without betting, but there was a great difference between betting on races, which lasted only a few days, and where the men who paid their dollar to get into the track could generally afford to lose something, and the betting at pool-rooms, which remained open the year round, and which were patronized largely by young men who could not afford to lose. Many young men had graduated as criminals owing to the existence of pool-rooms.

Should Follow the Rules.

Mr. Harcourt, while concurring with the former speaker's sentiments, took exception to the form of Mr. Lewis' mode of dealing with the question. He considered the correct procedure would

be to ascertain whether the Attorney-General was aware of this condition. On learning this, a motion could be made in the regular order. He merely drew attention to this in order that the rules should be observed.

The Premier is Dealing With It.

The Premier said the custom from time immemorial had been to allow more or less latitude in regard to the rules in order to bring such matters to the notice of the Ministers. He had two observations to make—first, that the matter had already been brought to his attention, and, secondly, it was obvious that if he said anything more the object of the people interested in the matter would be defeated.

Railway Committee's Report.

The Premier, in reply to Mr. Harcourt's query, said that the report of the Railway Taxation Committee would be laid on the table to-day.

The Librarian's Report.

The Speaker laid on the table the annual report of Mr. Avern Pardoe, the Parliamentary Librarian. Mr. Pardoe says the deficiency in shelf room, mentioned in former reports, is greater than it has ever been. An item of \$500 in the estimates of 1904, under the head of "library fittings," which he understood was to have been expended to make this deficiency good, was expended by the Public Works Department for the removal of the newspaper cases out of the fyle room into the main library. There being no new shelving, it became necessary to pile several thousand books in places not readily accessible, causing great trouble and annoyance when any of these are demanded. Mr. Pardoe thinks it will not be safe to put much more weight in the library annex. The flooring forming the ceiling of the main library appears to be very weak. It is merely suspended by slender iron rods from the roof of the building. It has become somewhat uneven, and a crack has appeared in the ceiling of the main library. "I have taken the precaution," he adds, "of moving away some of the heavy oak tables which formerly occupied the centre of the annex, and putting as little weight in the centre as possible." There is an annual increase of five or six tons in the weight of the books accumulated in that room. Except as regards these matters, the library is in good condition. There was a net increase during the year of 2,391 volumes, making a grand total of 74,200 volumes.

Farmers Protest.

Mr. E. Evans of Cardwell Township has protested to the Government against the proposition of a number of sportsmen to acquire a large area of land in the Muskoka district as a shooting preserve. The farmers of the district, he says, would like to have a chance to purchase the land, most of which is suitable for agricultural purposes.

Mr. Smith is the Man.

Hon. W. J. Hanna stated yesterday that Mr. James A. Smith, public school teacher, of Essex, had been appointed license inspector for South Essex. It was reported that there was some trouble in Conservative ranks in Essex over this appointment.