

# PARTISAN BIAS IN THIS CIRCULAR.

## Instructions Received by the Fishery Overseers.

## PRISON-MADE ARTICLES.

## Interesting Discussion on Mr. Preston's Bill.

## Government Considering the Whole Li- cense Question, Says Hon. Mr. Hanna—Against Amendments to Assessment Act So Soon—Many Bills Advanced.

A brief argument over a circular letter sent from the department to fisheries overseers, in which they were in part instructed to submit applications for licenses to the Conservative member, or defeated candidate of their riding, was the interesting feature of yesterday's sessions of the Legislature. Hon. Dr. Reaume's explanation was buttressed by remarks by the Premier, Hon. Colonel Matheson, Hon. Mr. Hanna and Hon. Dr. Willoughby. The Premier evidently misunderstood part of the remarks of Mr. D. Reed, who raised the question, and his few words were marked by some warmth. Excellent progress was made with a number of private and public bills, some of which were read a second time and others advanced a stage in committee. During the evening session Hon. Mr. Hanna said the feeling of the Government was against changes in the assessment act in view of the great attention that act had received last session, and in asking Mr. Crawford to withdraw his bill to amend the license act he said the Government had the whole question under consideration.

### Bills Read a First Time.

The following bills were read a first time:—

Mr. Torrance—To incorporate the Perth & Huron Railway Co.

Mr. Morrison—Respecting the Kakebeka Falls Land & Electric Company.

Mr. Fraser—To confirm by-law No. 11 of the township of Stamford.

Dr. Jessop—To confirm by-law No. 1,695 of the City of St. Catharines.

Mr. Smith (Peel)—To amend the act respecting the auditing of municipal accounts.

Mr. Cameron—Respecting the town of Goderich.

Mr. McDougall—Respecting the city of Ottawa.

Mr. P. H. Bowyer—Respecting the London, Chatham & Western Railway Company.

Mr. Gamey—Respecting the Canada Central Railway Company.

Dr. Jessop—An act to confirm by-law No. 1,655 of the city of St. Catharines.

Mr. Smythe—To incorporate the Manitoulin & Iron Range Railway Company.

Mr. Thompson—To enable the College of Dental Surgeons to allow C. Crease to practise dentistry.

Mr. Calder—Respecting the Town of Whitby.

Mr. A. B. Thompson—To amend the assessment act.

Mr. Calder—Respecting the Big Eddy

bridge over Black River, between the counties of Victoria and Ontario.

Mr. Crawford—To amend the land titles act.

Dr. Smellie—To make certain rights of C. R. Hosmer, H. C. Holt and F. W. Thompson in certain water powers on the Kaministiquia River.

### Instructions to Fishery Overseers.

Mr. Reed (South Wentworth) inquired if a circular appearing in the press, which gave instructions to overseers that applications for fishery licenses should be endorsed by the Conservative member or the defeated Conservative candidate before being sent in to the department, was issued by the Commissioner of Public Works.

Hon. Mr. Whitney asked that the document be laid on the table, and this was done. Hon. Dr. Reaume said that on assuming the duties of office he understood such a circular or something to that effect was sent out. On learning of it he had given orders that all applications for fishing licenses must be endorsed by the fishery overseer. The overseer might, if he wanted, consult the member for the riding, but the department was recognizing the recommendations of the overseers.

### Mr. McDougall's Point.

Mr. McDougall claimed that the Commissioner was not meeting the point. The circular said that in order to obtain a license it should be referred to the member.

The Premier asked was the circular signed, and Mr. Reed replied it was not signed in the paper, but the article said that it was signed by the Deputy Minister.

Hon. Mr. Hanna also desired to ask if the Commissioner was not following the practice of former years. He knew that the practice indicated was identical with that of the former Government.

Mr. McDougall did not think it was necessary for the Premier and the Provincial Secretary to come to the rescue of the Commissioner of Public Works.

The Speaker remarked that on a question of privilege a good deal of latitude was allowed beyond the rules.

### The Premier Wants to Know.

The Premier said there was nothing like getting at the truth. The hon. gentleman, he gathered, did not choose to say that the circular was signed by the Deputy Commissioner. He wanted to know, with other members of the Government, whether officials of the old Government who had been treated with the utmost kindness by the incoming Government were to be allowed to take advantage of their position to make political capital against the interests of the Government.

Mr. Graham pointed out that Mr. Reed had distinctly said the article stated that the circular was signed by the Deputy Commissioner, although his name was not attached to the newspaper copy.

Hon. Mr. Matheson—I suppose you gave it to him to read?

Mr. Graham—I did not, but I would not be ashamed of it if I had.

Hon. Dr. Reaume said he was not denying anything. The licenses were only granted, however, on the recommendation of the Government officials.

Hon. Dr. Willoughby had found that the course followed had been the usual one adopted by the late Ministry.

### Ownership of 'Phone Lines.

Hon. Dr. Reaume, replying to Mr. Lucas, said the Government had considered the right of the Province to acquire ownership or control or to establish long-distance telephone lines in the Province, but had had no communication with the Dominion Government on the subject.

Mr. Smith (Sault Ste. Marie) secured an order for a return showing the amounts by counties due the Province on account of unpaid balances due on sales of Crown lands from confederation down to December 31, 1904.

Mr. Auld secured an order for a return of all correspondence, petitions or