

# LEGISLATORS AND THE BALL GAME.

An Attraction That Could Not be Resisted.

DR. T. S. SMELLIE EXPLAINS.

He Says That All Clergymen Are Gentlemen.

St. Thomas Objects to a Clause in the Elgin County Bill — Deputation From Rainy River Makes Requests of the Government.

The first baseball game of the season was responsible for a brief session of the Legislature yesterday afternoon instead of an expected long sitting that would have resulted in the clearing off of many items on the order paper. Premier Whitney's initial appearance as a pitcher at Diamond Park proved too strong an attraction for those of the members who were staying in town, and as others had followed the usual practice of going home for the week end, the attendance was noticeably slim on both sides of the House.

**Bills Read a First Time.**

The following bills were read a first time :—

Mr. Torrance—To confirm by-law 1,129 of the city of Stratford.

Mr. Graham—Respecting Trinity Church, Cornwall.

Mr. Preston (Durham)—Respecting the united counties of Northumberland and Durham, and bridges therein.

Mr. Hoyle—Respecting the city of Windsor.

Mr. Thompson (Simcoe)—To amend the Division Court act.

Mr. Hoyle—Respecting the Windsor, Essex & Lake Shore Rapid Railway.

Mr. Crawford—Respecting the city of Toronto.

Mr. Crawford—Incorporating the Hamilton & Western Railway Company.

Mr. Crawford—To incorporate the Ottawa River Railway Company.

**Anxious to Get Through.**

Hon. Mr. Foy moved that on Monday next and on each succeeding Monday to the end of the session Government business be placed on the order paper after other business. He also urged that members all be in their places on Monday, as it was desired to get through as much business as possible on that day, particularly private bills.

Hon. Mr. Ross asked that the matter be allowed to stand as a notice of motion for Monday, as many members had gone home and would not be back until Tuesday morning. This suggestion was adopted.

Mr. Preston (Durham) drew attention to a newspaper despatch regarding the sale by an American firm at Albany, N. Y., of trout caught in Ontario during the close season.

Hon. Dr. Reaume said the matter would be immediately looked into and necessary action taken by the Public Works Department.

**Clergymen Are Gentlemen.**

Dr. Smellie, on a question of privilege, complained of a heading and the tenor of an article in a Toronto evening paper, in which he said it was made to appear that he had seriously alleged that a Methodist minister was not a

gentleman. Amid good-natured laughter from the members present he proceeded to say it was too bad he should have to explain his little joke. He was the son of a clergyman, and for many years his progenitors had been in the ministry. He was the first to descend into politics. Without equivocation or mental reservation he desired to say that every Methodist minister and every other minister was a gentleman.

Mr. Graham—Without having official authority on behalf of the Methodist Church, we nevertheless accept the apology. (Laughter.)

Mr. Crawford thought they should appeal to The News for a definition of the word gentleman. (Laughter.)

**Facts Regarding Indian Treaty.**

Dr. Smellie moved for a return of copies of the statement of the case of the Dominion, and the answer of Ontario to the statement of case of the Dominion, filed on Indian claims, arising out of the Northwest Angle Treaty, No. 3.

In reply to Mr. Anderson, the Commissioner of Works stated that the swing bridge at Young's Point Lock had been ported in bad condition, and a sum had been placed in the supplementary estimates to cover repairs. The Government had under consideration the question of transferring the locks at Young's Point and the dams on the Trent to the Dominion Government. It was not the intention of the Government to hand over to municipal Councils sums voted by the Legislature for expenditure upon roads in organized townships.

**A City of Toronto Bill.**

Mr. Crawford introduced the city of Toronto bill which provides for the ratification of the annexation of the Avenue road district, and of the agreement with the Grand Trunk Railway for the leasing of the Front street property. It also authorizes the issue of debentures for \$110,000 to cover the cost of a freight shed on Simcoe street, \$45,000; wharf improvements between Bay and York streets, \$15,000; new morgue, \$20,000; twelve-inch water main on Spadina avenue, \$15,700; twelve-inch main on Sterling road, \$6,600; Jarvis street sewer, \$5,700; Berkeley street sewer, \$3,500.

**St. Thomas Protest.**

Elgin County Council wants to abolish tolls on the London and Port Stanley gravel road, and will assume control of the highway, with the exception of one mile within the limits of St. Thomas. It appears, however, that this mile of road has four ancient wooden bridges, needing immediate renewal, at an estimated cost of \$50,000. The road is not a main city street, but part of a through road, and the St. Thomas Council does not want to assume the burden mentioned. Up to 1857 the county operated the road, leasing it as a toll road in that year for a period of 99 years. A special act was secured, including the mile mentioned in the general scheme, and the city bases its case on that act. Mayor Meek, Aldermen Chant, Trott, Turnpenny, Riddel and Ponsford called on Premier Whitney yesterday and presented the foregoing as their side of the case, as a reason why a bill now before the Legislature on behalf of Elgin county should not pass, unless it is amended to make it clear that the county assumes the whole road.

**Rainy River's Wants.**

Messrs. T. P. Morton, H. A. Tibbitts and Dr. G. H. L. Armstrong of the town of Rainy River, accompanied by Mr. H. W. Kennedy, M.P.P. for Port Arthur and Rainy River, called on various members of the Government yesterday, and made several requests on behalf of the town and the immediate district. They want a separate judicial district for Rainy River, a number of trunk drains built, and patents given to veterans entitled to land grants, so that the recipients may if they desire, sell their grants, which would then be subject to taxation, instead of being tied up for ten years. They were at Ottawa the other day

and asked the Dominion authorities for a better mail service, the opening of Indian lands in the district for settlement, and the construction of locks on the Sault rapids, twenty miles above the town, in order to make the river navigable for large steamers.

**Consolidated Rural School.**

Professor Robertson, head of the experimental farm established by Sir Wm. Macdonald at Ste Anne de Bellevue, Que., and Principal Peterson of McGill University, called at the Agricultural Department yesterday. They have been visiting the Ontario Agricultural College and the Consolidated Rural School at Guelph. The latter is a school to which pupils from distances are conveyed in waggons. Professor Robertson, speaking particularly of the latter, said the experiment had proved a great success. The enrolment at the school was now 195, whereas the maximum at the four schools which have been consolidated was only 85.

**Division Court Appointments.**

The following Division Court appointments have been made: Thos. McCandish, Mono Mills, and Robt. Orr of the same place have been appointed Bailiff and Clerk respectively of the Third Court of Dufferin County. Jas. R. Huffman and Jas. Clark, Ridgeway have been appointed Bailiff and Clerk respectively of the Third Court of Welland County.

**Dismissals and Appointments.**

Mr. McDougall will move next Tuesday for copies of all documents respecting the appointment of license commissioners and inspectors for the present year, and their administration of their offices; the names of all license inspectors who were dismissed or have resigned during the present year, and the reasons; copies of all documents concerning the issuance of fishing licenses, and the dismissals or resignations of the fishery inspectors.