

to the selection of a Minister of Crown Lands or a Minister of Mines. But what was expected, what everybody believed would be done, was not being done; a different policy altogether was being adopted. His hon. friend was increasing the number of the Executive Council. It might be a proper thing to do; the country was growing. The Ministers of the Province, he believed, worked harder than the Ministers at Ottawa. But it was not so long since his hon. friend proposed to abolish the Public Works Department altogether; now he was increasing the Executive Council from seven to eight. He knew there were extraordinary duties attached to the office of the First Minister, which necessarily required that he should be relieved of departmental work. The arrangement during his time as Premier, hon. gentlemen would remember, was that he occupied also the position of Treasurer. The actual work of the department was administered by chartered accountants, and there was not much work for the Minister to do, as his hon. friend the Treasurer could testify, just enough mental activity to prevent mental decadence.

The Premier Set Right.

The Premier was glad and sorry both that this hon. friend had at last ventured into the open.

Hon. Mr. Ross—I am always in the open.

The Premier was sorry the hon. gentleman had characterized the new Minister of Mines from new Ontario as a makeshift.

Hon. Mr. Ross said the Premier had given the word "makeshift" a meaning that was not intended or conveyed. It was merely used in relation to the method his hon. friend had taken. The new Minister might be better than any now on the treasury benches, and that would not be a marvellous thing.

Claims Promise is Fulfilled.

The Premier held that if he had done what his hon. friend said he had promised to do, there would also have been an increase in the membership of the Executive Council. The change in public feeling in new Ontario, he said, had commenced at the time the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ross) had succeeded to power. The promise he (the Premier) had made had been fulfilled with the difference that the Government in contradistinction to the hon. gentlemen had confidence enough in the new Minister of Mines from new Ontario to ask him to take the Department of Crown Lands. Proceeding, the Premier declared he had never said that the new Minister would have charge of the Department of Mines, and nothing else. They proposed to put upon his shoulders the burden of the Crown Lands Department, but might lighten the load by transferring some subjects connected with that department to other departments of the Government.

The bill was given its first reading.

Other Government Bills.

The following other Government bills were read a first time:—

Hon. Mr. Foy—To amend the act respecting the appropriation of lands for volunteers to South Africa, and of volunteers who served at the frontier in 1866.

This extends the time for making locations, the surveys for which cannot be made rapidly enough to meet the applications. It also provides that powers of attorney, which are being largely used by land speculators to evade the taxes to which the locations are due if transferred by veterans, shall be regarded as transfers, and revokes that part of a settlement plan for which a Detroit company has powers, whereby a number of veterans who had already selected locations in certain districts would have to surrender their locations to the company and seek others.

Hon. Mr. Hanna's bill to extend the time whereby counties may obtain Government aid toward the erection of Houses of Refuge.

Hon. Dr. Reaume—To amend the act for the improvement of public highways in respect to the apportionment of the Government grant.

Mr. Lennox—To amend the act re-

specting electric railways.

Hon. Mr. Matheson read a telegram from London as follows. "Treasury bills paid off and new bills discounted satisfactorily," as an intimation of the completion of the renewal of the loan for the Temiskaming Railway credit.

Division of Liquor Fines.

Hon. Mr. Hanna amended his amendment to the liquor license act, so that the addition to sub-section one shall read:—

For every transfer or removal of a license, a fee amounting to one-half the fee payable to the Province for such license under this section shall be paid.

That in all cases in which prosecutions under the liquor license act are brought by an inspector or other officer appointed by the Crown under the act, the fine imposed shall, when collected, belong to the Province.

Mr. McCoig thought the section an unjust one, providing that the whole revenue should go to the Government simply because the inspector laid a charge.

Hon. Mr. Hanna believed that the bill might well in the working out result in more revenue coming to the municipalities. He hoped it would lead to the municipalities instructing their officers to enforce the act.

Mr. Graham said the collection of fines was not so much the object as the prevention of the violation of the law. The Provincial authorities might not wish to interfere with the municipal authorities, and he feared that in the working out of the act they might escape responsibility. No law was more difficult of enforcement than the license act. Toronto was a model to the Province in respect of its administration of the law, but there the inspectors had nothing else to do. There was not such an inducement elsewhere for the same attention.

Hon. Mr. Hanna said the amendments were intended to induce attention to the law.

Mr. Graham read a letter from The St. Thomas Journal criticizing the Premier's amendment to the Surrogate Courts act, and arguing that the amendment would tend to throw the management of the estates of minors into the hands of trust companies and guarantee companies, and to burden the masses.

The Premier thought the facts were untruly stated and the conclusions drawn unjustifiable. He had been advised that the first section of the bill was unnecessary and withdrew it.

What's in a Name?

Hon. Mr. Ross thought that the dignity of Ministers alone was being consulted in the bill changing the title of Commissioner to Minister, and he saw no necessity or public purpose to be served by abolishing an appellation which had become historic and been borne by many distinguished men. He wondered why the eminent office of the Provincial Treasurer should not be dignified with the title of Minister of Provincial Finance, and the Provincial Secretary might be distinguished as Minister of State.

The Premier thought the leader of the Opposition was playing to the gallery.

Mr. Graham desired to point out without offence that the change of the name of the Crown Lands Department to that of Lands and Mines was undoubtedly playing to the gallery. The mines had always been administered by the Crown Lands Department, and there

was no change whatever. The promise, he submitted, to establish a separate Department of Mines had not been carried out. The other act merely detached a department from the office of Premier and attached a title.

Hon. Mr. Ross thought it would be desirable to have the ballot papers in Dominion and Provincial elections uniform, in which view the Premier concurred, promising to consider the point in committee.

Mr. Gamey withdrew his bill respecting life insurance companies, but under protest. He believed the sense of the country desired to have the reserve of the companies on the same basis in the Province as in the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. Hanna stated that the Government were impressed with the importance of the matter, but could not deal with it on such short notice.

Mr. Kerr secured an order of the House for a return of copies of all correspondence, papers, documents and memoranda relating to the drainage of the River aux Raisin, in the townships