

TO CREATE A RAILWAY BOARD.

Notice Given of an Important Government Measure.

SEVERAL FIRST READINGS.

Mr. Hoyle's Bill Regarding Com- pany Prospectuses.

An Amendment to the Liquor License Act Proposed by Mr. Crawford—Pe- tition for the Establishment of Agricultural Schools.

During the brief session of the Legis-
lature yesterday afternoon the first of
the Government measures promised in
the speech from the throne was intro-
duced, and notice was given of two
others of importance. The bill brought
down was Hon. Mr. Cochrane's measure,
previously outlined, changing the name
of the Lands and Mines Department to
the Department of Lands, Forests and
Mines, and providing for the appointment
of another Deputy Minister in addition
to the present one. The deputies will be
known as the Deputy Minister of Lands
and Forests and the Deputy Minister
of Mines, respectively. The former will
be Mr. Aubrey White, deputy of the de-
partment as now constituted, and the
latter Mr. T. W. Gibson, the present
Director of the Bureau of Mines.

Hon. Mr. Hendrie gave notice of a
bill for the appointment of a railway
and municipal board. The creation of
such a body has several times been hint-
ed at by various Ministers in discus-
sions respecting railway matters, and
particularly during the conference pre-
sided over by Hon. Mr. Hendrie, at which
the Government sought to ascertain
views of a helpful nature in respect to
the revision and consolidation of the
various railway acts. It is rumored
that the board, or commission, will con-
sist of three persons, a man expert in
municipal affairs, a railway engineer and
a lawyer. Hon. Mr. Hendrie also gave
notice of the consolidation mentioned,
which is entitled "An act respecting
steam, electric and street railways." It
is expected the bill will be so compre-
hensive as to cover every application
for railway charters, without the neces-
sity of resorting to special charters, and
with provision for the reference to the
board mentioned of disputes arising be-
tween municipalities and any other bod-
ies and the companies as to the inter-
pretation of its clauses. Both bills are
expected to be brought down soon.

Some First Readings.

The following bills were read a first
time:—

An act respecting prospectuses issued
by companies—Mr. W. H. Hoyle. This
bill was introduced last year and with-
drawn, and, having been much enlarged
and consolidated, will this session re-
ceive the imprimatur of the Govern-
ment. Under the bill, all the informa-
tion which is usually only to be had
on application at the head office of a
company will be available on perusal of
the prospectus. The bill will apply not
only to Ontario incorporations, but to
any company seeking to sell its shares
in the Province. Capital contributed by
promoters, discounts paid to agents, and
other information valuable to investors,
will be required in prospectuses. Any

misrepresentation will be punished by
fine or imprisonment, and shares bought
under misrepresentation may be can-
celled.

An act to amend the liquor license
act, introduced by Mr. Thomas Crawford,
repeals that portion of the act of 1899
which prevents an increase in license
fees payable to municipalities. Section
2 of the proposed new act enables a
city, without submitting them to the
ratepayers, to pass by-laws fixing the
fees for tavern or shop licenses at such
sum as the Council decides. A third
section provides for the cancellation of
licenses on a third conviction.

Mr. Crawford also introduced a bill to
amend the high school act, another sur-
vival from last year. The bill remedies
the practice objected to by the city, un-
der which pupils from Toronto Junction
attend high school in Toronto on pay-
ment of 80 per cent. of the cost, when
the city has not sufficient accommodation
for its own pupils.

The Speaker announced the receipt of
the certificate of the election for North
Toronto of Mr. McNaught, who, it is
expected, will be introduced to the House
on Wednesday afternoon.

Request For Agricultural School.

Hon. Mr. Monteith presented a peti-
tion asking for the establishment of a
branch of the Agricultural College at a
central point in the united counties of
Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. No
doubt many such requests will be re-
ceived, since the recent announcement
that the Government has not lost sight
of its policy when in Opposition, of es-
tablishing half a dozen agricultural
schools in the Province, and that in the
future the question will be taken up
and definitely dealt with. There is no
thought, it is understood, of making any
advance along this line this session, ow-
ing to the many other large measures
which the Government is desirous of
getting through.

Labelling Patent Medicines.

Mr. A. C. Pratt, South Norfolk, has
taken up the question of labelling
patent medicines, and will bring in a
bill to compel the companies to print
the formula on the outside of the wrap-
per of their preparations. It is stated
that many of these medicines contain
injurious ingredients and the bill aims
at placing the purchaser in possession
of the knowledge of exactly what he is
buying.