

CANNOT GRANT FREE SITE

CLAUSES OF PETERBORO' BILL
WERE STRUCK OUT.

Created a Dangerous Precedent, Said the Chairman of the Private Bills Committee—Other Clauses of the Bill Held Over for Two Weeks.

The Private Bills Committee yesterday took up the Peterboro' city bill, consideration of which had been adjourned in connection with the clauses authorizing the purchase of the old sugar company's lands for the purpose of giving a site to a new company.

"The company wants a free site, and we want to give them a free site," said City Solicitor Hall in answer to Mr. MacKay.

"Mr. MacKay has discovered what is wanted," said the Chairman. "It is most objectionable from every point of view."

"If the committee are wisely minded, they will strike out the clauses," said the Chairman, who stigmatized the proposal as a most dangerous precedent.

The three clauses were rejected by the committee, which was unanimous.

A lively discussion occurred over the electric power clauses, which, with the bonusing and drainage and purity of water supply clauses, were left over for two weeks. The city had asked the Peterboro' Light & Power Company for a rate to quote manufacturers, and this had been refused. Solicitor R. M. Dennistoun, for the company, admitted that out of 8,000 possible horse power 6,000 were going to waste over the dam. Mr. MacKay roundly denounced the attitude of the company in withholding quotations from the city. The Otonabee Power Company has already taken one of its customers from the Peterboro' company.

The Anglo-American Fire Insurance Company sustained heavy losses in Toronto's big fire, and proposed a reduction of capital stock in a bill which was reported by the committee.

Paipoonge, a municipality created last year by a division from Neebing, wishes to issue debentures for certain extraordinary expenditures necessary from floods, and for road improvement machinery, to the amount of \$7,000, and the committee reported the clause in their bill authorizing the debenture by-law. Clauses validating tax sales were amended to enable the redemption of the lands, and were so reported.

SAY THEY ARE OVERTAXED

MANUFACTURERS WOULD AMEND
ASSESSMENT ACT.

Memorial Presented to Members of the Government by a Deputation of the Manufacturers' Association—It Will be Considered.

The Parliamentary Committee of the Canadian Manufacturers Association waited on Hon Messrs. Hanna and Foy yesterday, and presented a memorial asking for some amendments to the Assessment act. They were told that some of the points brought up would no doubt be considered by the Municipal Committee with other proposed amendments. In part the memorial presented stated that, "While we approve of the principle of the business tax as a substitute for the tax on personality, we feel convinced that the basis of the business tax against manufacturers (namely 60 per cent. of the reality assessment), is too high. When the present law was being framed the basis of the business tax on manufacturing plants was originally placed at 50 per cent. of the reality assessment. Later, and apparently without reason, this was raised to 60 per cent."

Investigation would show that Ontario manufacturers paid from 30 to 40 per cent. more taxes than those of Quebec. This not only seriously handicapped business, but discouraged the erection of substantial factories and warehouses in the Province. The law, the memorial stated, also discriminated injuriously as between incorporated companies and partnerships or individuals.

Complaint was made that the law compelling manufacturers to give information as to employees' wages for assessment of income was neither fair or feasible, many reasons being advanced for this. The manufacturers were, however, willing to furnish complete lists and allow assessors to get information at first hand from employees. It was also urged that employers should not be compelled to deliver assessment notices and tax bills.

MUNICIPAL BILLS.

Legislative Committee Discusses Some and Holds Them Over.

In the Municipal Committee of the Legislature Mr. Eilber's bill proposing Government inspection of houses of refuge, and to compel contributions towards maintenance by inmates who were found to be possessed of property, was held over for future consideration. Mr. Hoyles' bill amending the assessment act by making the minimum assessment of small businesses \$100 instead of \$250 was held over, after a general discussion of the assessment act, in which varied views were expressed.

TO BE FIRST MOTOR ROAD.

BILL WAS REPORTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

Kingston Bill to Purchase the Street Railway of That City is Also Approved of—The Capital Stock is to be Largely Reduced.

The first railway in Canada to be operated by motors run by gasoline generating steam, with a speed of thirty miles, will be the Port Credit, Brampton & Guelph Road. The company's bill provided in the event of the gasoline method failing for permission to develop water power and to utilize steam. The bill was reported by the Railway Committee of the Legislature, with the reservation of some details for the decision of the new general railway act board, and steam will not be permitted. The road will run through Brampton, Georgetown and Acton. The capital stock is \$100,000, with bonding privileges of \$25,000 a mile. Brampton, though only twenty miles from Toronto, has been inconvenienced by want of accommodation. The new road will remedy this. Port Credit was included as a lake port in order to meet vessels trading for a large Philadelphia firm.

The committee ratified the purchase by the city of Kingston and the village of Portsmouth of the Kingston, Portsmouth & Cataraqui Electric Railway Company. The terms include the reduction of the capitalization from \$200,000 to \$90,000, \$50,000 of which will be preferred, and \$40,000 common stock.