

is to take place, instead of the Sheriff or Registrar, as formerly. Mr. Hoyle endorsed the bill. Mr. Preston (Brant) dissented, believing voters' interests safer in the hands of Sheriffs or Registrars than in the hands of partisans nominated by a party caucus. Mr. Borden and Mr. Fitzpatrick were agreed upon this at Ottawa. The Conservative party simply saw a further chance of applying the spoils system.

Following Messrs. Thompson (Centre Simcoe) and Jessop. Mr. Harcourt thought Mr. Preston had conceived the situation clearly. New Sheriffs or Registrars were not likely to be so careless of their reputation as to do what no good citizen would do. He was not opposing the bill and was utterly indifferent whether it carried, but it was of importance that the House should uphold the integrity of the officials referred to. It would be a sad day when the statement was sanctioned that the Sheriffs and Registrars were not capable of upholding the honor and responsibility of their position in the Province. Mr. Thompson (Centre Simcoe) had been fair enough to say that his interests would be safe in the hands of a political opponent. There were thousands of partisans, earnest Tories and earnest Grits, who would be strong enough to bear the responsibility when thrown upon them.

Premier Whitney submitted that where responsibility rested the power of appointment should also rest. The Government would accept the responsibility. Every hon. gentleman knew that the present system had not worked well. It had deteriorated into a vile political machine and he would therefore say it was time to change.

The bill was referred to the Legal Committee.

Bills For Committees.

Mr. Racine's bill to amend the general road companies act was referred to the Municipal Bills Committee.

Mr. Downey's bill to further amend the pharmacy act was referred to a special committee to be named to-day.

Mr. Gamey's bill to amend the act respecting the incorporation and regulation of mining companies was referred to the Legal Committee.

Mr. McNaught's two bills to amend the assessment act and one to amend the municipal act were advanced a stage. With regard to the latter, Premier Whitney hoped he would not be misunderstood in saying that he thought it was not for the advantage of any municipality to come year after year with such a large number of changes in legislation as Toronto did. Mr. Harcourt remarked that three of the clauses bristled with controversy, and public opinion in Toronto was not agreed. He would let the bills go to committee on the understanding that no question of principle was involved.

Mr. Fox withdrew his bill to amend the local courts act in favor of a similar measure introduced by Mr. Clark (Bruce).

Mr. Nixon's bill to amend the municipal act was referred to committee, as was Mr. Fraser's measure to amend the act to prevent the waste of natural gas and to provide for the plugging of abandoned wells. Speaking of the latter, Mr. Jessop thought it did not go far enough, but should have provided for the plugging of the pipes conveying Canadian gas to the United States.

The First Readings.

To amend the municipal act—Mr. Kidd.

To amend the municipal act—Mr. Mahaffy.

To amend the municipal light and heat act. To amend the municipal water-works act. To amend the assessment act. To amend the municipal act. An act respecting conveyance—Mr. Carscallen (Hamilton).

Respecting the town of Port Arthur—Mr. Kennedy.

To amend the act to regulate speed and operation of motor vehicles on highways—Mr. Lennox.

New Bills Ahead.

Notices of motion were given as follows:—

Mr. Mahaffy—To amend the municipal act.

Mr. McDougall—To amend the rules of practice.

Mr. Fraser—To amend the volunteer firemen's association.

Mr. Lennox—To amend the municipal act.

Mr. Macdiarmid—To amend the police village act.

Mr. Racine—To amend the municipal act.

Mr. Morrison will ask: Have any net fishing licenses been granted for 1906 in inland lakes? If so, to whom and on what lakes? What mesh in net is required in sturgeon nets or pots? Have any net-fishing licenses been granted in Bay of Quinte, Weller's Bay and Rivers Trent and Moira and waters flowing into Rivers Trent and Moira for 1906? Does the Government intend to grant protection to the game fish in these waters?

EXEMPTION OF WOOD LOTS.

MR. DOWNEY'S BILL FAVORED BY THE LEGISLATORS.

Work in the Municipal Committee of the Legislature—A Number of Bills Approved and Some Killed—Holding of Elections on New Year's.

The Municipal Committee of the Legislature yesterday held over the bill introduced by Mr. Kidd requiring petitions for changing an incorporated village into a police village to be signed by a majority of freeholders, instead of rate-payers.

The committee killed the measure brought in by Mr. Thompson requiring candidates for Township Council seats to file declarations of qualification, as in other municipalities, and giving them until 5 p. m. on the day after nomination to do so.

Mr. Downey spoke in support of his measure for the exemption from taxation of wood lands to the extent of one acre in ten, and not more than twenty-five acres of land held under a single ownership.

Hon. Mr. Monteith and Messrs. Downey, Little, Atkinson, Sutherland, Hislop and Munro were appointed a special committee to confer with Dr. Clark, the Provincial Forester, on the measure, redraft some of the clauses and bring in the redrafted bill next week.

Mr. Downey's bill to have parks managed by boards appointed by Councils, instead of nominated by Mayors, was defeated.

The same gentleman's measure for electing water commissioners for two years, instead of one, was strongly favored by Mr. Graham, who would have it apply to light and heat commissioners. The bill stands.

Mr. McDougall's bill to enable municipalities to vote money for travelling expenses of persons not necessarily members of the Council on occasions when they are selected as representatives of such municipalities was held over.

Mr. Labrosse's measure to make the holding of elections on New Year's Day impossible except in cities specially exempt was held over. Mr. Macdiarmid's bill to do away with boards of assessors in cities and towns with populations of less than 20,000 and have the work of assessment performed by a commissioner carried.

FROM ALGOMA AND NIPISSING.

Deputation Presents Several Requests to the Government.

A deputation from several municipalities in Algoma and Nipissing waited on members of the Government yesterday. They asked for aid for a railway from the Georgian Bay to the Missanabie River; for a new judicial district, to include a portion of West Nipissing and South Algoma, with its centre at Sudbury; and for the establishment of a bilingual school at Sturgeon Falls. Mayor McKee of the latter place, G. D. Vachon of Cache Bay and Dan O'Connor, "King of the Temagami," were among those on the deputation. The usual consideration was promised.

TO ENFORCE REGULATIONS.

Men in Lumber, Mining and Railway Camps to be Protected.

Dr. Bell, Inspector of the Provincial Board of Health, has returned from an inspection of the lumber camps in the northern part of the country. He summoned seven parties who had contravened the regulation by not having contracts with doctors for the medical care of the men in their lumber camps, and for insufficient provision at the camps for the care of the sick. Convictions were secured in all the cases. In one case the Magistrate gave the accused only three hours in which to make contracts. The convictions were against men at the Soo, Massey and Sudbury. The department is determined to continue the rigid enforcement of the regulations respecting lumber, mining and railway camps.

WELLAND'S CORDAGE COMPANY.

Massachusetts Firm to Establish \$600,000 Works There.

A by-law fixing the assessment for twenty years of M. Beatty & Sons, Limited, by the town of Welland, was the subject of a bill reported by the Private Bills Committee. Welland also wished to fix the assessment of the Plymouth Cordage Co. on a tract of 180 acres. Such of the property as may be devoted to residential purposes, for which 125 acres has been laid out in streets, will be subject to full assessment. The company employs 600 hands, and will build for their accommodation, and will spend \$600,000 on the property. The bill was reported.

After considerable discussion the committee reported the bill to incorporate the village of Finch. It lies at the junction of the C. P. R. & Ottawa and New York Railways, and the inhabitants want to live up to their opportunities. Mr. John M. Campbell, who owns a large hotel, led some opposition, based on the fear that local option might be carried under the incorporation.

Collingwood Y. M. C. A. will be incorporated under the usual terms.