

# PROPRIETARY AND PATENT MEDICINES.

## Mr. Pratt's Measure Discussed by the Legislature.

## PATENTS FOR VETERANS.

## Important Amendment to the Land Grant Act.

## The Premier's Bill to Repeal the Manhood Suffrage Registration Act Briefly Discussed—House May Adjourn This Evening Until Wednesday—Bills Advanced.

An interesting debate on Mr. Pratt's proprietary and patent medicine bill occurred in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, ushered in by a comprehensive speech by the mover. Mr. Graham opposed the bill. Much progress was made in the business of the House, including several Government bills. Hon. Mr. Cochrane amended his volunteer land grant bill to enable holders of certificates to purchase the odd forty acres where lots are divided into 100 acres, thus giving them the privilege of holding 200 acres, and also enabling the veteran actually located to take out his patent at once, instead of waiting ten years. He will have to pay taxes and submit to the usual settlers' regulations, however, from which he is exempt under the ten years arrangement. Mr. Hoyle's prospectus bill was again in committee. The Premier's bill to repeal the manhood suffrage act was given a second reading, with the understanding that it would be debated in committee. The House, it is understood, will adjourn this evening until Wednesday next.

### The Third Readings.

The following bills were read a third time:—

Empowering the London & Western Trusts Company, Limited, to sell certain lands in the county of Lambton—Mr. Montgomery.

To confirm by-law No. 718 of the town of Napanee—Mr. Carscallen (Lennox).

Respecting prospectuses issued by companies—Mr. Hoyle.

Respecting the municipality of Neebing and the corporation of the municipality of Paipoonge—Mr. Smellie.

To incorporate the village of Finch—Mr. Kerr.

Respecting the town of Trenton, 1906—Mr. Morrison.

To confirm by-law No. 618 of the town of Bowmanville—Mr. Devitt.

Mr. Racine's bill providing machinery to enable junior counties to secede from combination of counties was read a second time. It enacts that where half the municipalities of a county petition in favor of such, a vote shall be taken on the question, decision in the affirmative to depend upon the securing of three-fifths of the vote polled.

Mr. MacKay introduced his bill, previously explained, to amend the act respecting actions of libel and slander.

### Patent and Proprietary Medicines.

Mr. Pratt, in moving the second reading of his bill to regulate proprietary

and patent medicines, said no meaner frauds were perpetrated on the public than the frauds under the guise of medicines of the class mentioned. The report of the Dominion analyst on some of these medicines showed them to contain a large proportion of alcohol. In the United States some of these medicines could not be sold except under liquor license. In addition to alcohol, chloroform and opium were largely used in many patent and proprietary medicines. Others for which large prices were charged were worth a few cents, were, in fact, absolutely valueless; others contained poisons of a deadly nature. Mr. Pratt held that the press was guilty of complicity in the frauds perpetrated on the people under the guise of these medicines. He quoted from an editorial in The Globe in which it was stated that experience had shown that some proprietary medicines reached the right spot. An examination of The Globe of the same issue showed 26 patent medicine advertisements, and this, he inferred, was the foundation for the editorial. Proceeding, he said that two years ago the advertising manager of The Globe had told him that no advertisement would be inserted in that paper which could not be read at the breakfast table. "I hold in my hand," continued Mr. Pratt, "two advertisements from The Globe which I would not read to the

House because we have in the House and in the Government young and unmarried men." The merriment which greeted this sly thrust at Hon. Mr. Matheson and Hon. Dr. Wiloughby prevented Mr. Pratt going on for a short time. He afterwards contended that the contributions made by patent medicine establishments to municipal and Provincial revenues were so small that there could be no objection to Provincial regulation. Mr. Pratt argued strongly for the adoption of that part of his bill which provided that companies manufacturing and selling such medicines should be compelled to put the formula on the bottle, so that the people would know just what they were getting for their money.

### Mr. Graham Opposes the Bill.

Mr. Graham was led to speak by the reflections cast on the press of the Province, which, he thought, would compare favorably with any in the world for cleanness and independence. There was no press which sacrificed so much. Thousands on thousands of dollars were sacrificed every week in refusing advertisements. He believed the license law should control the sale of liquor, whether it was sold in a patent medicine bottle or flask. Many acute men of business were carrying on the proprietary medicine business, no more fraudulent than any other, and the House should be slow in wholesale condemnation. Their grandmothers would smile at the condemnation of many of the cures on which they relied, and which did cure them. He believed the Medical Association advocated this movement in the United States, as they had a right to, and he read resolutions passed by the medical bodies there, almost in the words of Mr. Pratt's bill; and, while the medical profession in Ontario had nothing to do with the bill, it originated, he wished to point out, with the medical profession in the United States. The entire surplus of the Conservative Government depended upon the patent medicine business, for the succession duties paid on the estate of the late Senator Fulford proceeded from this source. He mentioned several countries where the labeling of patent medicines was not required. There was nothing unfair about men keeping secret a formula which was strictly their own property, and on establishing whose value they had spent millions of dollars. It might be wise to have these formulae privately registered, but he did not believe the members for one moment would consider their publication. He was heartily in sympathy with the attempt to stop the selling of intoxicants in the form of patent medicines.

### Money Spent in Advertising.

Dr. Lewis thought that with the prin-

ciple of the bill everyone should agree. Every medical man knew the effects on the constitution of a long course of patent medicines. From his experience he knew how disease was aggravated through such means. The formula of a patent medicine could be got very cheaply. The money was all spent in advertising. Mr. Fulford's formula was bought for \$500 from Dr. Jackson, who refused at first to patent it. The millions were spent in advertising. As a temperance man by conviction he favored the measure. He instanced a medicine stated to be purely vegetable and containing no alcohol, which actually contained 41.6 per cent. of alcohol. He thought the press were not responsible, for they knew nothing of what these medicines contained. A cancer cure stated to contain radium came under his observation. He was sure if they were aware of its contents the press would not help the sale of such a nostrum.

### Referred to Legal Committee.

Premier Whitney did not propose to deal with the merits of the bill. He was sure there was a certain amount of truth in the allegations made. Section 8 was quite against the rules. If it were struck out the bill might go to committee.

This was agreed to, and the bill was referred to the Legal Committee.

Mr. Lennox, in moving the second reading of his bill to amend the Division Courts act, quoted the approval of The Globe with satisfaction.

Mr. Gamey said that the deputation was not so large as that advocating cheaper power, but it was quite as important to the people to have cheap litigation, and he hoped the Government would accept the bill.

Mr. MacKay favored a large, substantial and pretty radical measure of law reform. The whole question of costs should be placed on a business basis, so that a man would know what he might expect to pay when he went to a lawyer's office.

Hon. Mr. Foy had no objection to the bill going to the Legal Committee, but thought it went too far in all-round increase of the jurisdiction of Division Courts. In regard to promissory notes and promises to pay, there might be an extension. The question of jurisdiction of County Courts would have to stand over for a year.

The bill was referred to the Legal Committee.

Hon. Mr. Pyne asked for the withdrawal of Mr. McCowan's bill respecting cemetery companies, as it would involve a large number of disinterments, and the order was discharged.

Hon. Mr. Hanna laid the report of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission on the table. It is dealt with elsewhere.

Second readings were given to three private bills.

Hon. Mr. Hanna moved for the ratification of the agreement with Wm. Bernard Converse, Montreal, for the manufacture of rope and cord at the Central Prison. During March 207,000 pounds of twine were manufactured, upon which for power furnished the Government gets 16 cents per 100 pounds. The old contract was at the rate of \$5 a day, and netted \$129.30. The gain on the amount received of \$311.47 was \$181.87. Under the contract the farmer could buy twine in 50-pound lots at a rate one cent less than the merchant could buy it in the market.

Mr. J. J. Craig was added to the Select Committee on Education Bills.

### Mining Company Incorporations.

Hon. Mr. Foy's bill was reported amending the Ontario mining companies incorporation act by providing that sections 5 and 6 shall not apply to any company incorporated after the passing of the bill.

By consent Hon. Mr. Monteith's resolutions respecting grants to horticultural and agricultural associations were adopted.

Hon. Dr. Pyne's bills authorizing certain payments under the public libraries act and to amend the act for the education of the deaf and dumb and the blind were read a second time. Hon. Mr. Whitney's bill to amend the Ontario election act, and Hon. Mr. Monteith's