

MINING BILL ADVANCES.

MR. MACKAY SEEKS INFORMATION AS TO REVENUE.

Suggests that Rich Mines Should Contribute More Than Those Which Are Not Paying—Hon. Mr. Cochrane Says There Will be No Royalties.

The session of the Legislature yesterday afternoon was unexpectedly short. The mining bill was reported after a brief discussion in committee, and its third reading is now appreciably nearer. At the request of the Opposition discussion on the liquor bill was deferred, and it will be taken up to-day or to-morrow. Adjournment was made at 4.30 and there was no night session.

The following bills were read a third time:—

Respecting the town of Port Hope—Mr. Preston (Durham).

To amend the Ontario medical act—Hon. Mr. Beck.

Respecting local municipal telephone systems—Hon. Mr. Beck.

Hon. Mr. Matheson, on the House going into committee on the bill for raising money on the credit of the consolidated revenue fund, replied to Mr. Harcourt that the present intention was to make the bonds payable only in Canada. Under the general act, however, there was power to pay them in Britain or elsewhere.

When the mining bill was taken up in committee of the House Mr. Mackay questioned whether, even on all the terms of the act being complied with, the Province should grant an indefeasible title to mining lands. It was doubtful whether such a step was in the best interests of the Province. He thought it would be better if the Crown retained a right in those lands.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane thought it would be impossible to encourage the mining industry or put it on a proper basis unless those who invested their money in it got something tangible in return. Mining was largely a gamble, and lots of money was expended in it for which no return was ever received. He knew of one gold mine on which \$500,000 had been expended, and the returns had not yet admitted of a dividend being paid. Would it be fair that the men who had spent that amount of money should not even have possession of the land they were mining?

Mr. Mackay thought the bill in regard to certain sections could not be clearly discussed until the provisions of the measure regarding the revenue to be derived from the mining industry by land taxation, royalties or otherwise were known. He asked if there would be any royalties.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane replied that there would not.

Mr. Mackay thought some plan might be devised whereby mines which had paid returns on the investments and were known to be profitable should contribute something—percentage, royalties or whatever else it might be called—to the Provincial revenues. It was not fair that these rich mines should be asked to contribute no more to the revenues than those which did not pay profits and gave no promise of doing so immediately. That would be discrimination against the poor man.

The Premier suggested that Mr. Mackay should wait patiently until the measure referred to was brought down. At present he could not give his hon. friend more information.

The bill was reported. Several other Government bills were also advanced a stage.

Mr. Graham secured an order for a return of copies of all correspondence, petitions or other documents in any way referring to the dismissal of M. J. Connolly, Division Court Clerk, and Jonas Hagerman, bailiff, both of the township of Yonge Front, in the county of Leeds.

PASS YORK RADIAL BILL.

AMENDMENTS MADE IN THE RAILWAY COMMITTEE.

Agreements on Points in Which the City is Interested—Chairman of Committee Recipient of a Hearty Vote of Thanks.

The Toronto & York Radial Railway bill was passed as amended by the Railway Committee of the Legislature yesterday. As amended the agreements entered into with various municipalities by the subsidiary companies controlled by the company, and some of which contained practically perpetual franchises, are made to conform to the provisions of the new railway act. As the result of a conference between legal representatives of the city and the company a clause was embodied providing that powers under the old charters which have lapsed shall not be revived by the new bill. Another clause provides that the company shall not buy or lease land in the city of Toronto for market purposes without the consent of the Railway and Municipal Board.

The measure incorporating the Western Central Railway Company, which has been several times discussed, was passed with amendments cutting out authority to build a large number of branch lines. The road is to run from Guelph to Toronto.

The bill extending the time for the commencement and completion of the Ontario West Shore Electric Railway Company to two and four years, respectively, passed.

This concluded the work of the committee for the session. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Hon. Mr. Hendrie, the Chairman, before adjournment for the courtesy, ability and tact displayed through the sittings of the committee.