

MORE GOVERNMENT BILLS INTRODUCED.

Salaries of the Toronto Police Magistrates Increased.

AGRICULTURAL MEASURES.

Sanitary Inspectors For Cheese and Butter Factories.

Amendment to the Local Drainage Act Gives Power for the Appointment of an Additional Referee—A Discussion in Committee on the Mining Bill.

The session of the Legislature yesterday afternoon was comparatively short, and the attendance was slim, but several Government bills of importance were introduced, and considerable business was transacted. One of the measures brought down provides for increasing the salaries of the Police Magistrates of this city. Another gives authority for the division of the Province into two sections for the administration of the drainage law, and empowers the appointment of an additional referee. The Opposition questioned the appointment of an additional officer, pointing out that other bills brought in have provided for a number of berths. Hon. Mr. Ross thought that if the House sat until July there would be very few people in the Province for whom an office would not have been provided. One of three bills brought in by Hon. Mr. Monteith provides for the appointment of sanitary inspectors for cheese and butter factories. In committee on the mining bill the Opposition was again prominent, Mr. MacKay continuing his vigorous fight against the indefeasible title proposition.

His Honor the Lieut.-Governor was present before the business session commenced, and gave the Royal assent to a large number of bills which have passed the House.

Statute Law Amendments.

Hon. Mr. Foy introduced the statute law amendment act of 1906. One of the most important clauses enacts that the salaries of the Police Magistrates of Toronto shall be increased, that of Colonel G. T. Denison from \$4,000 to \$5,000 and that of Mr. R. E. Kingsford from \$1,500 to \$3,000. The latter is to devote his whole time to the work.

Other important clauses are as follows:—Enabling Judges of the Exchequer Division to be put on the rota for trying election cases.

Providing that persons are not disqualified as members of the Legislature by reason of their being members of companies holding public contracts.

Providing that extra money may be paid to civil servants for special services.

It is made plain that the Lieutenant-Governor has power to appoint bailiffs or Clerks of Division Courts and to dismiss the same.

The pay of constables attending Assizes or sessions is raised from \$1.50 to \$2.

Providing that Judges of the district courts shall receive \$500 per year from the Province in addition to salaries paid by the Dominion, because of extra work they are called on to perform.

The companies to which the Ontario companies act is to apply are defined.

Enabling the arrest without warrants of persons violating the automobile regulations, and providing that they shall be taken at once before the Mag-

istrate.

The Agricultural College.

Hon. Mr. Monteith introduced three bills, the first an act to amend the act respecting the Ontario Agricultural College. It provides for the appointment of an advisory board, in accordance with the recommendation of the University Commission, composed of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, who shall act as Chairman; the President of the college, three graduates or associates of the college, and two practical farmers who are not graduates. Under the old act this board was composed of, not more than seven practical farmers, and no provision was made for the representation of the graduates and associates of the college.

Cheese and Butter.

The second bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Monteith was an act to amend the act to prevent fraud in the manufacture of cheese and butter, by providing for the appointment of sanitary inspectors, as asked for by the Dairymen's Association. These inspectors are to be under the direct supervision of the Department of Agriculture, and they will not be in any way connected with the instructors in dairying. The act also provides that all cheese factories and creameries shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition, and that the patrons of factories must take precaution to properly cleanse and keep in a sanitary condition all milk houses, milk stands, and the utensils used for the storing or carrying of milk and cream.

Suppression of Foul Brood.

The third bill introduced by the Minister of Agriculture was the act for the suppression of foul brood among bees. This provides for the repeal of the old act. The only important change in the new act is that the appointment and direction of apiary inspectors is taken out of the hands of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association and will in future be under the control of the Minister of Agriculture. More than one inspector may be provided for carrying on the work, and appointments are to be made by the Lieut.-Governor in Council instead of by the association.

An Additional Drainage Referee.

Hon. Mr. Hanna, in explaining his measure amending the local drainage act, said that the most important clauses of the bill give power to the Government to divide the Province into two districts for the administration of the drainage law.

Hon. Mr. Ross—That would mean the appointment of another referee.

Hon. Mr. Hanna replied that it would. The other clauses were of minor importance, and chiefly concerned more clearly defining areas mentioned in petition for drainage works, and the works to be done within those areas. The step to appoint an additional referee had been most strongly urged, particularly by members of the House from the eastern part of the Province. Conditions in regard to the engineering difficulties in the eastern and western sections of the Province were radically different, and there was ample work in the district east of Toronto to take up the time of a referee. To Mr. Harcourt, Hon. Mr. Hanna said that the present referee, Col. Rankin, had for the past two years devoted his whole time to the work, his salary having been increased from \$2,500 to \$3,500 on his giving up private practice to do so. The bill provided that a referee might, if he chose, engage in private practice, but if he decided not to, he might properly be paid \$3,500. One who practised might not get the same salary.

Is Another Official Necessary?

Mr. Harcourt said his present information was that the present referee was not overworked. While drainage conditions in the east were not identical with those in the west, the question was surely as to the administration of the law. There was only one law for both east and west, and he could not understand why a distinguished man, who had made his reputation in the west,

could not interpret the law for both sections. The thought had come to him while Hon. Mr. Hanna was speaking that perhaps Col. Rankin was not persona grata with the people of the east.

Hon. Mr. Hanna replied that Mr. Harcourt had reached the point. For his own part, he had too much respect for Col. Rankin as a man, and his standing as a lawyer and a Judge, to make him a subject of discussion. He did not want to prejudice that gentleman in any way, and he asked that if there was to be a discussion it should be held over until next week, when the members for the east, would be present and could be heard.

Mr. Harcourt paid a tribute to Col. Rankin's work and ability. He simply desired to emphasize the point that a new official ought not to be appointed if one man could do the work sufficiently well.

The Premier said that every legal practitioner in eastern Ontario who dealt with drainage matters, some of them prominent and warm supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite, had brought the question to the attention of the Government and had asked for the bill. No Government would be justified in making changes adding other officials to the service without good reason. There was nothing of this nature for which the Government had more justification than the proposed appointment for which power was now sought.

The Opposition Leader's Views.

Hon. Mr. Ross did not think his hon. friend had made the case clear. There did not seem to be any difference in regard to conditions in the east and west; there was only one law and it could not be differently administered. He elicited from Hon. Mr. Hanna the information that there were 70 or 80 cases last year, all with one exception in the west. That did not mean, Mr. Hanna added, that there was little drainage work in the east; there were some big projects there.

Hon. Mr. Ross, continuing, expressed the belief that the measure was simply a design for the appointment of another official. It was a case of a drainage on the Treasury to get somebody a berth. There had been so many officials provided for this session that it was becoming monotonous. "If we sit here until July there will be very few persons in the country for whom offices have not been provided," he said. He did not think the measure should be approved of until a report had been laid before the House, showing what the engineering difficulties in the east were in connection with drainage, and showing also that the public interests would suffer if an additional referee was not appointed.

The bill then stood over until Tuesday.

Work or Discovery?

Hon. Mr. Cochrane's bill respecting mines was taken up in committee.

Mr. MacKay challenged the wisdom of the decision to make valuable discovery the basis of claims. He warned the Government they would get into trouble over this point. The inspector should not have the right to turn out the prospector from his claim before the expiry of the three months for which he had paid.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane said he had explained two or three times why the working condition was not in the interest of the poor man. If a new Cobalt were found under working conditions rich men could go in and take up a hundred claims and fulfill the working conditions, and so blanket large tracts. When discovery is required the poor man has just as good a chance as the rich man. The mining men had requested the discovery and inspection system. It had always been required, but only last year put in force for the first time.

Mr. MacKay also raised the all-important question of giving an indefeasible title to mining property. He suggested a perpetual lease subject to forfeiture if development were not proceeded with. A corporation like the Standard Co. might lock up claims for a