

FEBRUARY 8, 1907.

SPOILS SYSTEM IN OPERATION.

Mr. Auld's Trenchant Criticism of the Government.

VETERANS' LAND GRANTS.

Time For Applications Extended to End of Year.

Mr. Smith of Sault Ste. Marie Calls Attention to Hardships Suffered by Some Settlers—A Number of Ques- tions Answered by Ministers — Pro- ceedings in Legislature.

The spoils system as put into effect by the Government will evidently be the subject of trenchant criticism by the Opposition during the present session of the Legislature. Mr. Auld (South Essex) started the ball rolling yesterday afternoon when he spoke to a motion relative to Justices of the Peace in Essex county. Mr. Auld was particularly severe in his criticism of the treatment of former Justices in his own riding, and of the qualifications of a number of those appointed by the present Administration, mentioning a hog-stealing charge in connection with one of them. Fair progress was made in dealing with other matters on the order paper, and the House adjourned until this afternoon.

A Flood of Petitions.

A flood of petitions asking for the repeal of the three-fifths clause of the local option act poured in at the opening of the session. These came from churches, church societies and Women's Christian Temperance Unions throughout the Province, one being submitted by Hon. Mr. Foy.

The Opposition saw humor in the situation, and as each petition was submitted the Liberal members pounded their desks and repeatedly shouted "Carried." The list included petitions from the W. C. T. U. at Cornwall, Kemptville Presbyterian Church, St. David's; Zion Methodist, Hamilton; Presbyterian Church, Wick, county of Ontario; Central W. C. T. U., Toron-

to; Sons of Temperance, Salina; Methodist church quarterly board, township of Darlington; Greenbank Presbyterian Church; W. C. T. U. of Leamington; Baptist church, Springford; Fraser Presbyterian Church, Tottenham; Baptist church, Kincardine; Christian Endeavor Society, Listowel, and London Conference of Methodist Church.

Mr. A. G. MacKay presented a petition asking for incorporation of the Owen Sound, Shallow Lake & Wiarton Railway Company, with power to construct a railroad using steam, electric or other motive power from Owen Sound through Sarawak and Keppel townships to Wiarton.

Veterans' Land Grants.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane moved the second reading of the bill to amend the volunteers' land grant act by extending the time for the filing of applications by qualified persons to the last day of the present year.

As an indication of the need for this extension of time Premier Whitney stated that among other letters from the four corners of the Dominion he had received one from a professional man in the Yukon, stating that there were two veterans there who wanted to make application for the grant. The Premier also intimated that the House would not have the work to deal with that they were called upon to do last session. They would, therefore, be able to devote more time to a careful consideration of proposed amendments to the registration and municipal acts.

The following bills were read a first time:—

Mr. Sutherland—To amend the Ontario game protection act by prohibiting the killing of quail until 1915, or for a considerable period of years. Under the law as it stands to-day the birds may be shot during one month in each year.

High School and Municipal Act.

Mr. Clapp—To amend the high school act by repealing the clause which compels cities and counties to pay a percentage for maintenance of resident pupils who attend high schools in adjacent municipalities.

Mr. Clapp—To amend the municipal act by providing machinery to manage fire protection appliances, etc., in places which have provided fire protection under the local improvement act.

Mr. Clarke (Bruce)—Two bills to amend the Ontario election act and the manhood suffrage registration act by changing the oath taken by a voter from "that I have resided within the Province of Ontario" the statutory time, to "that I have resided within the Dominion of Canada" the statutory time.

Manhood Suffrage Registration.

The second reading of the Premier's act respecting manhood suffrage registration, by repealing such registration except in cities, was carried, the discussion being postponed by consent, as the bill, which was only printed yesterday, had not been distributed. The Premier said there might be good reasons why there should be a general registration, but that had no bearing on the present proposal.

The Premier presented and the House carried a motion that the names of Messrs. Jamieson, Gamey and May be added to the special committee to deal with the new joint stock companies act.

Hon. Dr. Pyne, in answer to Mr. Preston (Brant), said that Mr. Snow, the commissioner appointed to investigate the charges against officials of the Institute for the Blind at Brantford, had not yet made his report. When he did it would be laid on the table of the House, but the Minister could not say when that would be.

Mr. Hoyle moved his notice of motion asking for full information and statistics concerning the working out of the "alternative method" of selecting jurors under the amendment of 1902. He explained that the object of his question was to ascertain how the plan had worked out, and how many countries had re-