

cipal act, providing that those nominated for municipal office in townships shall be required to file their qualifications the succeeding day.

Hon. Mr. Hanna added that the bill was intended to apply a principle which last session had been extended to villages and towns. When discussed the extension to villages had been decided against, since many men, who if elected would serve, would not waste a whole day in order to file their applications. He desired, therefore, that the bill be withdrawn.

Mr. Preston (Brant) took the ground that it was unnecessary to file qualifications in townships, since the financial standing of these men were well known, the nominees being usually large property-holders. Mr. Ferguson thereupon withdrew his bill.

Gives Power of Expropriation.

Mr. Downey's bill to amend the municipal light and heat act was read a second time. Mr. Downey explained that the amendment aimed to give to municipalities which owned heating and lighting plants the right to expropriate property required for the extension of such plants. They had this power in connection with the waterworks, and private companies owning and operating lighting and heating franchises had the right to expropriate.

Mr. R. C. Clapp moved the second reading of his amendment to the municipal act, which was sent to the committee. The amendment provides for the establishment in townships of boards of trustees for managing fire appliances and fire engines.

House Vote \$124,000.

The House went into Committee of Supply, on motion of Hon. Mr. Matheson, in order to pass interim funds pending the passing of the regular estimates. These amounts include \$30,000 for revision of the statutes; veterans' grants, \$10,000; bounty on wolves, \$4,000; Hydro-electric Power Commission, \$7,000; fish and game, \$8,000; superannuation of teachers, \$63,000; insurance, \$2,000; total, \$124,000.

Government Bills in Committee.

Mr. Cochrane's bills to amend the free grants and homesteads act and the act respecting the land grant to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway were read a second time, and will be taken up in committee next Tuesday. In 1868 an act had been passed providing for the remission of certain charges to settlers taking up land. The amendment contemplated an extension of this arrangement to the recently-opened townships. Respecting the Grand Trunk Pacific arrangement, the Government desires that the land grant may be outlined in blocks of not more than three townships without being surveyed. The Opposition did not disapprove.

Fraternal Insurance.

Mr. Graham moved a resolution "that in the opinion of this House, owing to the vast interests involved, the time has arrived when the Government should make a thorough inquiry into the question of life insurance by fraternal societies, with a view to establishing a safe and equitable table of rates, which table of rates shall be the minimum to be charged by all fraternal societies operating under Provincial licenses or charter."

The first consideration was that the insurance should be substantial rather than cheap. Therefore, he called the attention of the Government to the desirability of a thorough inquiry into the question, with a view to establishing a safe and equitable table of rates, which should be the minimum to be charged by fraternal societies operating under Provincial license or charter. Fraternal societies paid out in death claims in Ontario in 1905 no less than \$2,268,140, and \$469,225 in sick benefits, as well as smaller sums for funeral and special benefits. The Government could after careful investigation strike a Government rate. He admitted the difficulty in making societies adopt this rate, but the mere fact of the existence of a Government standard would encourage its adoption. There was \$300,000,000 of fraternal insurance in effect in this Province, and an interest so large required to be safeguarded. They should do

their best to at least point out to the people that in their own interest they ought as soon as possible arrive at a safe rate.

"Societies and Societies."

Mr. Hoyle said there were fraternal societies and fraternal societies. Some of them were of sound and unquestionable standing; some had been brought into bad standing by the acts of those responsible for their conduct. One institution in this Province, he declared, had at its last annual meeting revised its rates so as to practically do a grave injustice to its old members from 60 to 65 years of age. It had increased the rates to such an extent that it seemed a set design to punish these old members because they had lived so long. If the Government took steps to protect that class of members they would be doing an excellent work. A society with which he had been connected for thirty years was one of the strongest in existence. Every five years the best actuarial obtainable took stock of the standing of that concern, and changes found necessary were made. The system of mortuary and sick benefits in that organization were so interwoven that any interference on the part of the Government with a view to imposing a flat rate would result in disaster.

Mr. Studholme urged that there should be careful supervision of fraternal associations, particularly with a view to seeing that the money paid by the thousands of members was being properly handled.

Should Engage Experts.

Mr. McDougall heartily supported the resolution. He hoped that if the Government accepted it they would go thoroughly into the question, obtaining the help and advice of the best experts. If that were done he was of opinion that any legislation brought in by the Government on the subject would be almost unanimously passed by the House.

Mr. Craig said he had a bill prepared along this very line, and he was heartily in accord with the resolution of the Opposition leader. The plans adopted and the rates in use by many of the societies would not perpetuate them, but they bore the stamp of Government approval, because they were registered and licensed to do business by the Government.

Mr. Auld also warmly supported the resolution. He urged its adoption, and declared that it would not only be in the interests of the majority of members, but also in the interests of the societies as societies and their future careers.

Thorough Investigation Promised.

Hon. Mr. Foy said the question was not a new one. Any defects or defaults in the act or the minimum table of rates in the schedule attached to it occurred when the friends of the hon. gentlemen were in power. At the same time the present Government would only be too happy to take the matter into consideration, and if there was found to be anything wrong, to seek to effect a remedy. They would have to be careful, of course, in attempting to apply any remedy, lest greater harm should be done than by allowing matters to stand for a while. The recent agitation seemed to have had a good effect already in causing fraternal associations and insurance companies to take steps to see that they were in good shape. The assurance that the Government would thoroughly investigate the matter would, he hoped, result in the hon. gentleman withdrawing his resolution, satisfied with having drawn the attention of the Government and the societies to the question.

To Educate the People.

Mr. Graham readily agreed, saying that his sole desire had been to educate the societies themselves and probably some members of the Government to the magnitude of the question. He would be glad to assist the Attorney-General in any way in the investigation.

The House adjourned until 3 o'clock

this afternoon.

Notices of Motion.

Mr. Bowyer will on Monday ask the Government if they are aware of the recent trouble and litigation between Dr. Crichton, a duly qualified physician, and the Medical Council of Ontario. He will also ask if it is the intention of the Government to introduce at this session legislation with the object of curtailing the powers, real or arrogated, of the said Medical Council.

Mr. Macdiarmid will on Monday introduce bills to amend the assessment act and the ditches and watercourses act.

Requests by Deputations.

Representatives of the town of Smith's Falls and Montague and North Elmsley townships waited upon Hon. Mr. Matheson and Hon. Dr. Reaume and asked for a grant under the good roads act for certain roads in Lanark county. A Sturgeon Falls deputation also asked for aid to a road system.

Hon. Dr. Reaume also heard a deputation from Bruce Mines and Rydal Bank, which asked for Government assistance in the extension of the Bruce Mines & Algoma Railway northerly to connect with the C. P. R. and ultimately with the Grand Trunk Pacific.

A Sudbury deputation waited on several members of the Government urging assistance to a projected railway from Sudbury to Cobalt, running along the east side of Wahnapiatae Lake. Such a line, they urged, would open up a splendid mining section, and connecting with the C. P. R. and the T. & N. O. would place the whole section in direct connection with the main lines of all the various railways.

Mr. Lucas is Chairman.

Mr. I. B. Lucas, M.P.P. for Centre Grey, was elected Chairman of the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature yesterday morning at its inaugural meeting of the session. The late Henry Carscallen, M.P.P. for East Hamilton, was Mr. Lucas' predecessor. Hon. Mr. Matheson and Mr. M. G. Cameron, as well as the new Chairman, made appropriate references to the late Mr. Carscallen, and expressed sympathy with his family.

Municipal Undertakings.

The city of Peterboro' is asking approval of the Railway and Municipal Board to a debenture of \$10,000 for the extension of waterworks. Woodstock is asking permission to issue debentures for \$3,550 for a similar purpose. Fort William has filed with the board plans for a municipal street railway system.

Straight Issue on Local Option.

Mr. Graham, leader of the Opposition, has given notice of a bill to amend the liquor license act. The measure, which will be introduced in the Legislature next week, proposes to repeal the three-fifths local option clauses of the act, restoring to municipalities the right they previously enjoyed of deciding by a simple majority whether or not they would have licensed hotels.

The bill also proposes to make it illegal for License Commissioners and inspectors to enter into contracts, verbal or written, with any person or persons engaged in the liquor trade with whom they may have any official business.