

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY  
**DOMINION AND  
THE PROVINCES.**

**Question of Jurisdiction Raised  
in Legislature.**

**CONFERENCE SUGGESTED.**

**Premier's Answer to Mr. Preston  
of Brant.**

**Will the Government Decide to Make the  
Union Jack Part of the Equipment  
of Public Schools?—A Number of  
New Bills Introduced.**

In the Legislature yesterday Mr. Preston (Brant) drew the attention of the Government to what he termed the latest manifestation of the Dominion Government's encroachment upon the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government, namely, Hon. Mr. Lemieux's bill for the preventing and settling of strikes and lockouts. Years ago, he said, labor legislation was considered a matter almost wholly of Provincial jurisdiction, but the Dominion Government were bringing in such legislation from time to time. He could foresee a cause for future friction because of differences as to jurisdiction. The Premier's reply was to the effect that something would have to be done, and he believed that the Provinces and Dominion would eventually get together and arrive at a settlement of these matters.

**Bills Introduced.**

New bills were introduced as follows:—

Mr. May—An act respecting the city of Ottawa. This is to authorize a special issue of debentures, not exceeding \$36,000, to purchase books for the Public Library; to issue debentures of \$20,000 to acquire property of the Consumers' Electric Company; to confirm by-law 2,503 to confirm the agreement of purchase between the city and the Consumers' Electric Company; to enable the city to enter into an agreement with the Hydro-electric Power Commission, and authorize the issue of \$500,000 additional debentures to erect a municipal power plant; to enable the Council, after the approval of the electors has been obtained, to pass a by-law to borrow money for extension of the waterworks system; to vote sums for legal improvements; to vote \$5,000 towards the expenses of the Old Boys' reunion at Ottawa, 1907.

Mr. Smyth—A bill respecting the Huntsville & Lake of Bays Railway Company.

Mr. Bradburn—An act respecting the city of Peterboro'.

Mr. Preston (Durham)—An act to amend the assessment act.

Mr. Duff—An act to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Hoyle—An act to incorporate the Artesian Water Company, Limited.

Mr. Smellie—An act to incorporate the village of South River.

Mr. Eilber—An act respecting the town of Seaforth.

Mr. Duff—An act to incorporate the Mercantile Trust Company.

Mr. Hoyle—A bill to amend the Ontario insurance act. This bill proposes to allow fraternal associations to purchase school debentures as well as ordinary municipal debentures. It would allow courts also to declare a man legally dead because of seven years' ab-

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sence.

**Flag Equipment of Schools.**

Mr. Duff on Tuesday will ask the following questions:—Is it the intention of the Government to make the use of the "Union Jack" part of the equipment of the public schools of the Province of Ontario during all school days or at stated periods? If so, does the Government propose to assist the public school boards in procuring the same?

This plan has been more or less talked of in Government circles since the Manitoba Government adopted it, and some rumors have been circulated to the effect that it might be carried out in this Province.

Mr. Auld read from the columns of a morning newspaper the report of a case in the Divisional Court, in which a hotelkeeper had been fined \$20 and costs for keeping his bar open on Sunday. The defendant moved for a rule nisi on the ground that the Magistrate had no jurisdiction in this case. This, said Mr. Auld, was one of several cases where a licenseholder had been taken twenty miles to face a Magistrate when a Justice of the Peace lived almost across the road.

The Premier said that in the absence of the Provincial Secretary, and being without knowledge of the facts, it was impossible for him to give any answer.

**The Rules of Procedure.**

Mr. McDougall rose to ask if it was the intention of the Government to appoint a committee to investigate the procedure at Ottawa with regard to private bills. The new rules there had been found to work satisfactorily, and the adoption of similar rules in the Legislature would facilitate business and shorten the session. The penalties imposed had had the effect of getting the bills in on time, and they were properly looked after, suspension of the rules not being looked after, as it formerly was. The Government might appoint a small committee to revise the rules.

Premier Whitney said the object of his hon. friend was a laudable one, but

he did not see how any rules that might be framed would result satisfactorily so long as extensions were granted by the House. Many of those interested seemed to lack even an elementary knowledge of the rules, and often wrote to members urging their influence in bringing in new bills long after the time in which they should have been introduced. At times, of course, the circumstances were such that it was only fair there should be extensions. He supposed that unless the Government and all the members of the House set their faces against suspensions, unless such were clearly proper, nothing could be done. The rules provided—and the Premier read them—all the safeguards necessary, so far as procedure was concerned, but the trouble, he repeated, was that the rules were suspended. He hoped that during this session the members would try to avoid this as far as possible.

Mr. McDougall also thought a change should be made in regard to reports by committees. When these were presented to the House only one side of the case was given—namely, that to which the committees were favorable. He suggested that the committee should report on all matters referred to them, whether their findings were favorable or not.

The Premier pointed out that it would be in order for any member of the House to move that matters left out of reports of committees should be inserted, and they could then be discussed. The committees were appointed by the House to make recommendations on matters referred to them and reported their conclusions. It would not be possible for them to give both sides.

**Question of Provincial Rights.**

Mr. Preston (Brant) referred to Hon. Mr. Lemieux's arbitration measure, which he characterized as the latest infringement on Provincial jurisdiction. He expressed the belief that some action should be taken to prevent a conflict of jurisdiction between

the Dominion and Province. The telephone difficulty, Mr. Preston pointed out, brought a Provincial and Dominion representative to the scene. Fortunately in this case there was no conflict of authority, but he could readily understand how differences might arise and two commissions proceed simultaneously to investigate the same difficulty. He could well imagine a conflict of authority between the Dominion and Provincial Railway and Municipal Board. The question had to be taken up with the Dominion Government along with other matters in which there is a conflict of jurisdiction.

**Something Must be Done.**

The Premier replied that there seemed to be a great deal in what the hon. gentleman had said. At the recent conference between the Provincial and Dominion Ministers they had touched upon the fringe of this subject, but of that he could not say anything. "Some step will have to be taken, something will have to be done," he went on, "or else the present apparent confusion would be increased." There was no reason why there should be friction, but the fact remained that there was, and it should be the desire of all good citizens to avoid it as far as possible. He expressed his personal opinion—apart altogether from the question of jurisdiction—that there was too much legislation on many questions. So far as matters in dispute between the Province and the Dominion were concerned, it would be undignified if they should go to the same length as disputes between private parties. He closed with an expression of opinion that these disputes would result in a general attempt on the part of the Provinces and the Dominion to get together and settle them.

Mr. Duff's bill to amend the registry act was referred to the Legal Committee.