

Hon. Mr. Cochrane thought his department should not be so much concerned about forestry in older Ontario, as that belonged more naturally to the agricultural branch, where the former forester was. If the university established a chair of forestry students who took the course there could be given a chance by the Lands, Forests and Mines Department to do practical work in the summer time in the forest reserves. The forestry question as applied to the vast timber resources of the newer parts of the country was one of great importance. The Government was giving every attention to it, and hoped that in a few years a policy which would do all that was hoped for it would be in practical operation.

Public Works Department.

Hon. Mr. Reaume explained several minor increases in his department which called for a vote of \$50,100. Mr. Graham thought they ought to have good men for the fisheries service.

The Minister of Public Works paid a tribute to the Fish and Game Associations and was impressed with their value in co-operation with the Government in the proper enforcement of the laws.

Mr. Graham asked if there was any truth in rumored negotiations with the Dominion Government re the fisheries.

The Premier said that nothing of an official nature had taken place between the two Governments.

Mr. C. N. Smith asked as to the proposed means of making expenditure on colonization roads. Hon. Dr. Reaume answered that a bill concerning this matter was in contemplation.

Replying to Mr. Preston (Brant), he said that former Secretary of the Bureau of Labor had never intimated dissatisfaction, simply saying he was going to get a larger salary elsewhere. Two branch bureaus had been established. An effort was being made to frame questions which would result in obtaining from manufacturers the information necessary for the report without the friction which had been troublesome in the past. The vote carried.

Support of Asylum Patients.

Hon. Mr. Hanna, in speaking to the vote of \$145,670 for his department, defended at some length the more systematic collections from relatives or guardians for the care of insane patients. Care was taken as far as possible to avoid hardships.

Mr. Graham thought that in some respects, under the new act, this would depend on the municipality. He had a case in mind in which a woman who could ill-afford it had been sorely tried by the threat of publicity if she did not make good to the municipality the cost of maintaining in an asylum one of her relatives. She was paying, but at a sacrifice to herself.

The Premier, replying to Mr. Hugh Clark (Centre Bruce), said the changing of the name asylum to something which would not carry the stigma that name conveyed to many minds was worthy of consideration.

Mr. Graham wondered if the work of the Children's Aid Societies could not be extended.

Hon. Mr. Hanna alluded to the expansion of the work in centres outside of Toronto, and the aid the Government was giving them.

Mr. Preston (Brant) praised the Government for the assistance given the local society at Brantford. The vote carried.

A vote of \$15,950 for miscellaneous items under the head of civil government, including the expenses of the King's printers branch, passed.

Agricultural Estimates.

The Department of Agriculture called for an expenditure of \$49,726. Hon. Mr. Monteith explained that the increases were uniform and not large. Under colonization and forestry the changes were not marked, except that the forester was left out of this year's accounts.

Mr. C. N. Smith said that the Women's Institutes in northern Ontario were holding successful Fairs. They had not been receiving help from the department, and he hoped that some-

thing would be done.

Mr. Graham asked if Ontario was doing something to get its share of Dominion immigrants.

Hon. Mr. Whitney recognized the necessity that every possible farm lab-

orer should be induced to come to Ontario.

Mr. Preston (Brant) protested that Ontario should not be used as a stepping-stone to the west. The Government should have a very active propaganda.

Premier Whitney agreed and hoped Mr. Preston would bring his influence to bear upon his political friends at Ottawa to bring this about. The vote passed.

For legislation \$224,500 was voted, Mr. Graham smilingly saying that on this he refused to accept the Government's challenge to name an item which could be objected to.

Crown Lands Charges.

The charges on Crown lands totalling \$525,800 were passed. They were divided as follows:—Expenditures on account outside service and surveys, \$363,900; expenditure on account of mining development, \$142,300; expenditure on account of parks, \$19,600. In speaking to these Hon. Mr. Cochrane mentioned the vote of \$25,000 for the purpose, as foreshadowed in The Globe, of establishing a Government sampling plant at or near Cobalt, where ores will be sampled at nominal cost. On refund account of Crown land charges votes were passed, under various heads of \$18,500, \$243.32 and \$2,429.07.

The administration of justice called for an expenditure of \$612,394.29. Hon. J. J. Foy said that in the general administration of justice in the counties there was an increase of \$15,000. In the new districts opened up by the railroads more Magistrates were required, accounting for an increase. The vote passed.

Notices of Motion.

The following notices of motion were given:—

Mr. Smyth (Algoma) asks if it is the intention of the Government to investigate complaints as to large areas of unpatented lands being held in northern Ontario by speculators who have not complied with the regulations under which the land was sold or located. If the Government intends having inspection of and reports upon lands open or to hereafter be opened for settlement with the view to preventing settlers from locating on land not for agricultural purposes. He also asks if the Government intends to introduce legislation confirming bona fide settlers in the title to minerals on their lands, and to the timber where such was not sold to licensees by the late Government.

Mr. Bowyer—Bill to amend the liquor license act.

BERLIN TO GET RAILWAY.

QUESTION SETTLED BY PRIVATE BILLS COMMITTEE.

Title of Historic Acre of Land in Village of Waterford Granted to Trinity Church—Railway Opposed Idea of Giving Up the Road.

The right of a municipality to control its public franchises is involved in a private bill respecting the town of Berlin, according to Mr. H. L. Drayton, who represented the interests of that place before the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature yesterday. Berlin desires to pay into court the amount of the arbitrators' award, \$75,200, and assume control of the Berlin & Waterloo Street Railway, which it is taking over. The railway company claims that the arbitrators did not take into account the value of the franchise. Court proceedings were instituted, and the taking over of the road has been delayed. There should be no doubt about the meaning of an Ontario statute, said Mr. Drayton, and he asked the committee to support their own legislation.

Mr. W. D. McPherson, for the street railway company, claimed that no reason for urgency had been advanced. "We have the right to the profits of our own property," said Mr. McPherson. He claimed that they had one of the best balanced railroads in Ontario. This was a matter that did not affect Berlin alone. Other corporations were affected. The road gave cheaper fares than in Toronto. The electrification of the road in 1896 was done at large expenditure. It cost \$90,000 to change the equipment. Since then they had not made 3 per cent. on their money, though they had been making a fair profit when the road was a horse line. They claimed that under the law they were able to secure an extension of the franchise for five years.

Mr. Harcourt claimed that the committee should safeguard the rights of the litigants, and claimed there should be some consideration for men whose enterprise had carried the system through its lean years. Had there been a flat, square issue submitted to the electors of Berlin? They should hear from the electors.

City Solicitor Scellen recounted the difficulties in forcing the arbitration upon the company. The award had been received on December 31 and a by-law could not be submitted then.

The first clause of the bill, to validate the arbitration and to put Berlin into possession of the road upon the payment of \$75,200 into court, was carried, there being a division of the committee on the vote. Harcourt, Kohler, May, Munro, Preston (Durham) Preston (Brant) voted against.

Clause 3 was amended to make it necessary for the ratepayers to vote their approval of the expenditure of \$75,200.

This action of the committee does not invalidate the legal proceedings before the courts, which may decide that the system has been undervalued by the arbitrators. As to the right of the town to take over the system, however, the matter is finally settled in favor of the town.

Away back in 1818 an acre of land was set aside in the village of Waterford for the joint use of the Church of England and the Presbyterian Society. A frame church was built, in which the Presbyterian and Anglican bodies worshipped. The church disappeared in time. Up to 1872 the plot had been used as a cemetery, when it was abandoned. In 1903 the bodies were removed to another plot. Long years since the Presbyterian Society had ceased to have its existence. In the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature Trinity Church of Waterford, through the medium of a private bill, asked to have the title of the land vested in the rector and church wardens in order that they could build a church on the site. The bill was reported, the Presbyterian interests having no objection.

Bill authorizing expenditure for Niagara Falls was reported.