

GOVERNMENT HOUSE WILL NOT BE SOLD.

Provincial Treasurer Says Offers Are Not Entertained.

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT.

Leaders Unanimous as to Big Institution.

Legislature Makes Substantial Progress on Routine Work — Bill to Amend Mines Act—It is to be Toned Down on Some of its Harsher Features— Yesterday's Proceedings.

The Legislature made splendid progress yesterday afternoon in disposing of much of the routine business of the session. A number of private bills were safely tided through committee stages, and the portion of the estimates already passed was formally concurred in. The Provincial Treasurer denied that the Government was considering the sale of Government House. Several verbal offers had been made, but had not been entertained. The Premier's bill to give borrowing powers to the Board of Governors of the university, subject to order in Council, was the object of some discussion as to methods, though there was unanimity of expression that the institution must be generously supported.

New Legislation Introduced.

The following new bills were introduced:—

Mr. Downey—To amend the assessment act.

Mr. Graham—To amend the act respecting joint stock companies and water powers.

Mr. Fraser—Respecting the plugging of natural gas and oil wells.

Mr. Graham's bill enlarges the power of municipalities to take stock in water power companies which lie some distance away, but from which power may be transmitted.

The name of Hon. Mr. Hanna was added to the Public Accounts Committee in the place of Mr. I. B. Lucas, who as Chairman of the Private Bills Committee is busily engaged.

Brevity the Soul of Wit.

Mr. Smyth (Algoma) submitted the following question:—

(1) Is it the intention of the Government to investigate the complaints made by residents of northern Ontario that large areas of unpatented lands are held by speculators who do not reside on the land and who in other respects have not complied with the regulations under which the land was sold or located? (2) Is it the intention of the Government to appoint an inspector or other proper officer to examine and report on the lands of the Crown in all townships in northern Ontario now open for settlement or that it may be intended to hereafter open for settlement, with the object of preventing settlers from locating on lands not suitable for agricultural purposes? (3) Is it the intention of the Government to introduce legislation confirming the title of bona fide settlers who have already obtained their patents or who are residing on their lands and have performed the necessary improvements thereon to entitle them to patents, to minerals, if any, on the

lands, and also to the timber, where the same was not sold to timber licensees by the late Government?

Hon. Frank Cochrane's reply was characteristically short. He said: "In reply to Nos. 1 and 2, yes; to No. 3, under consideration."

Making the Act More Lenient.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane's bill to amend the mines act was referred back to the Committee of the Whole House. Some minor corrections were made in the wording of the bill to clear up the meaning. The act was also made more lenient with respect to forfeiture in case an owner who had done the required work on his claim had neglected to register. The act as it stood provided for summary forfeiture in case registration was overlooked. The bill will be read the third time, probably this afternoon.

The House went into Committee on Mr. Pratt's bill to vest certain lands in the rector and churchwardens of Trinity Church in the village of Waterford. The clauses of the bill were approved in the regular way without opposition. Bills respecting the city of Ottawa and the Current River Power Company were similarly treated.

Mr. Smellie's bills respecting the municipality of Shuniah and the incorporation of Port Arthur passed their second readings.

Mr. Pratt moved the second reading of a bill to amend the toll roads expropriation act. When asked by the Premier to explain, Mr. Pratt said that Norfolk omitted in taking over its toll roads to provide that the townships should care for the toll roads they expropriated. The county had no machinery for caring for these roads, and the act had a remedy in view. The bill was referred to the Municipal Committee.

Act Respecting Game.

Mr. Pratt moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Ontario game act by making the hunting of deer with dogs illegal. He understood that it was an injury to the venison, and it was unsportsmanlike.

Several voices cried "No, no," and "Lost," but the bill passed its second reading.

Mr. Downey's bill to amend the municipal act was moved for its second reading and created some discussion. Mr. Downey would control the putting up of poles on the streets of a municipality. Many streets were unsightly with poles, and he would have the Railway and Municipal Board decide on what streets poles should be put.

Mr. Graham admitted that in some places the streets were literally forests of poles, but the act was one of such importance that he could not agree to entering upon it at this stage of the session.

The Premier agreed that the bill opened up a large question and should be dealt with carefully. The bill was referred to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. McNaught moved the second reading of his bill to amend the municipal act. It was his proposal that no length of possession adverse to a municipality shall enable any person to obtain title to or retain possession of any land owned by a municipality.

The Premier pointed out that one of the clauses of the bill conflicted with the clause of the municipal act respecting realty. What were civic officials for if they would allow for ten years uninterrupted possession of a city's property?

Mr. McNaught withdrew clause 3, respecting the rights of squatters, and in its amended form the bill received its second reading.

Mr. Downey's bill to amend the act respecting municipal sanitaria passed its second reading and was referred to the Municipal Committee.

Hon. Mr. Foy's measure creating the new judicial district of Sudbury was put through committee.

University Borrowing Powers.

The Premier moved the second reading of his bill to amend the university act. He explained that the act was to give the university power in future, without the necessity of application being made every session, to bor-

row money for the purposes of the institution. It would be noted that all such borrowing would be subject to order in Council. It was simply a means of borrowing from time to time with the consent of the Government. Some \$2,000,000 would be required, and this would prevent several applications in future for authority to borrow.

Mr. Graham, in rising to criticize the proposal, said that he wanted to be thoroughly understood as not being opposed to anything for the good of the university. They were all agreed that the Provincial University must be maintained. There was no dispute about that, but he wanted to reiterate his objection to the method adopted in giving money to the university. He did not think the grant should be based in connection with the money received from any particular source. He did not believe the succession duties should be earmarked for university support. They were prepared to give all the money for the need of which the university could show cause. There was not sufficient definiteness. If money was needed for maintenance or buildings they should say so, and provide directly for it. They ought to do it just as they would provide money to the Public Works Department.

Not Sell Government House.

Hon. Mr. Matheson stated, when the estimates were being concurred in, that while several offers had been made for Government House, the sale of the property had not been entertained, and was not immediately in prospect. He also intimated, in answer to Mr. Graham, that the statistical part of the Temiskaming Railway Commission's report would probably be brought down next week.

Notice of Motion.

Mr. Foy—An act to amend the surveys act.