

REVISION OF THE COMPANIES ACTS.

Government Measure Discussed in Legislature.

OPPOSITION IS ALERT.

Valuable Criticisms and Helpful Suggestions.

A Number of Bills Read a Third Time and Others Advanced in the Committee Stages—Small Attendance of Members at Evening Session of the Legislature.

To the few spectators who occupied the galleries during the afternoon and evening sessions yesterday's proceedings in the Legislature had little interest. A great deal of work was accomplished, however, some measures being read a third time, many being advanced a stage. The whole of the night session, at which the attendance of members was slim, was occupied in a consideration of the new joint stock companies act, excellent progress being made. The Opposition displayed throughout the day the alertness which has become its notable characteristic, and in addition to thoughtful criticism advanced a number of helpful suggestions. Mr. Ross, who succeeded his father, the former Premier, as member for West Middlesex, took an active part in the discussion of the companies act, speaking with clear conciseness.

The following bills were read a third time:—

Respecting the marriage settlement of Robert Woods Prittie and Jane Prittie—Mr. Crawford.

To confirm by-law No. 1,839 of the city of St. Catharines—Mr. Jessop.

To authorize the Mercantile Trust Company of Canada, Limited, to do business in the Province of Ontario—Mr. Duff.

Respecting the city of Niagara Falls—Mr. Fraser.

To confirm by-law No. 9 of the village of Colborne—Mr. Fraser.

Premier Refused Motion.

Mr. Kerr moved that a select committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the claim of George O. Hays of the township of Roxborough to lot No. 9, in the 9th concession of the township of Marmora, in the county of Hastings, to be composed of Messrs. Whitney, Graham, Smith (Sault Ste. Marie), McMillan, Fraser, Ferguson (Cardwell) and Kerr, said committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records.

The mover of the motion said that Mr. Hays was a poor man, who always claimed he had been unjustly deprived of the lot in question. A number of affidavits had been signed, and the only way to get rid of the trouble would be for the appointment of a committee to decide the question.

The Premier did not approve of Mr. Kerr's motion. He recounted Mr. Hays' efforts to justify his claim. Mr. Hays had been paid \$200 by the present Government in settlement of his claim, but when this was spent he came back again. The Premier, therefore, could not see his way clear to appoint the committee, and Mr. Kerr's motion was withdrawn. Mr. Hays claimed to have discovered gold on the lot in ques-

tion in 1867.

The House went into committee on Mr. Hoyle's bill to amend the Ontario insurance act. Mr. Graham favored the provision that fraternal societies should be permitted to hold their annual meetings outside the Province. The bill was advanced after a brief discussion.

Amending Election Act.

Mr. Clark, in moving the second reading of his act to amend the Ontario election act, said that the object was to make residence in Canada instead of the Province a qualification for voting. There were many who were temporarily absent in the Northwest who were disqualified because of the present rule. The difference was not very great whether a man happened to be absent in Kenora or Winnipeg. The bill was referred to the Legal Committee.

Mr. McNaught's bill to amend the act respecting pawnbrokers was also referred to the Legal Committee, amid cries from the Opposition of "Killed," "Dead" and "Good-bye."

Opposition to Lady Dentist.

When bill No. 30 was reached, to permit Miss Sadie Holmes of Tillsonburg to practise dentistry, there was an evident stir.

Mr. MacKay rose to ask if it was the intention of the Government to throttle the bill as amended in committee. If so, they should say so.

Mr. Craig—I certainly will submit an amendment that the bill be thrown out.

The bill was passed in committee, Mr. Craig giving notice that he would challenge the bill on its third reading.

The bill as amended in committee permitted Miss Holmes to practise in Oxford county to January 1st, 1909, at which time she must be prepared to pass the regular professional examination.

Change Assessment Act.

Mr. Craig withdrew his bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Downey's bill to amend the assessment act was moved to its second reading. It proposed to extend the time in which companies may make returns to March 1st, also to allow costs to the appellant against the municipality where he shows the injustice of the assessor. The bill was referred to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. Pratt's bill to incorporate the Policyholders' Mutual Life Insurance Company was put through the committee stage, no objections being raised to the measure. Mr. McCowan's bill respecting the town of North Toronto was similarly fortunate.

Mr. Fraser's bill to incorporate the Niagara Peninsula Railway Company was put through the committee stage. Mr. MacKay objected to clause four of this bill. Companies should be allowed by by-law to make their head offices anywhere they choose. This clause would clash with some sections of the general act proposed.

Mr. Morrison's bill to incorporate the Thurlow Railway Company was passed in committee. Mr. Graham raised the same objection that was made to the previous bill.

Mr. MacKay said that the Ontario companies act to be passed next week would cover these cases, and they should come under the general act.

The House went into committee on Mr. Cochrane's bill respecting Burlington Beach, which was handled by Hon. Mr. Hendrie. Mr. Reed was disposed to oppose the measure on the ground that he had recently learned that there was opposition to it from Saltfleet township.

The Premier announced that no petitions against the measure had been received by the Government.

Mr. Reed wanted to know what self-government would be left to the people interested. It was all being taken from them.

Mr. McDougal urged that the measure was of such a nature that the most earnest consideration should be given it. The bill was allowed to stand.

Hon. Mr. Foy moved the House into committee on his bill to amend the land titles act, a technical measure