

SPEAKER PRAISED IN LEGISLATURE.

Words of Appreciation For Hon.
J. W. St. John.

OCCASION WAS UNIQUE.

Mr. Thomas Crawford, M.P.P.,
May Rule Pro Tem.

Interesting Features to Monday Afternoon Session—Mistake in Proclamation Respecting Incorporation of Cobalt—Mr. J. S. Duff Elected Speaker for the Day.

The session of the Legislature yesterday, though not protracted, presented several features of interest. For the first time since confederation the House found itself face to face with the problem of electing a temporary Speaker for the balance of the session. On one previous occasion a Speaker had been replaced during his absence from the House for one day. The unfortunate circumstances on this occasion, however, make it apparent that the temporary occupancy will be of longer duration. The procedure followed was that Mr. J. S. Duff, West Simcoe, was, on resolution, chosen Speaker for the day. A similar proceeding will be followed to-day, and after forty-eight hours a Speaker will be selected for the balance of the session. It is understood that the Government have asked Mr. Thomas Crawford, M.P.P. for West Toronto, to act as Speaker during the absence of Hon. J. W. St. John. Mr. Crawford himself is ill with la grippe and will not be out of the house for a day or two. If he should be present to-day or to-morrow he will be elected and will act as Speaker until prorogation. The acting Speaker reported that he had received the official return for the bye-election in Carleton, announcing the election of Mr. R. H. McElroy, who succeeds the late G. N. Kidd. Hon. G. P. Graham secured information from the Provincial Secretary concerning the administration of the license law in Arnprior, showing a remarkable decrease in the number of prosecutions and fines imposed. It developed during the afternoon that the proclamation incorporating the town of Cobalt took in a great amount of territory by mistake, and the Premier seeks to rectify this by the introduction of a bill which was given its first reading. Among the visitors to the House were Deputy Attorney-General Wood of Alberta and Hon. Senator P. Roy of Edmonton.

A Speaker For the Day.

When the members had taken their seats Mr. Sydere, Clerk of the Assembly, announced that the Speaker was absent owing to illness, and a member of the House would have to be elected to serve in his place.

The Premier, after a eulogistic reference to the Speaker and an expression of regret at his illness, said that a similar circumstance had occurred only once since confederation, when Mr. T. Ballantyne, Speaker from 1891 to 1894, had been taken ill. Mr. Baxter was elected to act, and did so for one day, Mr. Ballantyne recovering and resuming his duties the next day. It would be necessary, the Premier proceeded, un-

der the provisions made for such cases, for the House to appoint a member to act as Speaker for the day. Tomorrow if the Speaker should not be present it would be necessary for the House to again appoint a Speaker. On the third day, or after two days' absence of the Speaker, the duty of the House would be to elect some member to act during the balance of the session. He then moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Foy, that in the Speaker being unable to be present Mr. J. S. Duff be "Speaker for this day."

Mr. Sydere having put the motion which, of course, carried, Mr. Graham briefly addressed the House, his remarks being in the nature of an appreciative reference, on behalf of the Opposition, to Speaker St. John, and the hope that his recovery would be speedy.

Mr. Duff then took the chair, read the prayers, and the House proceeded to business.

Completed Legislation.

The following bills were read a third time:—

Respecting the town of Seaforth—Mr. Ellber.

Respecting the Huntsville & Lake of Bays Railway Company—Mr. Mahaffy.

To incorporate the Current River Power Company—Mr. Smyth.

Confirming tax sales in the township of Etobicoke.

Respecting fines, penalties and forfeitures.

Bill Respecting University.

A bill of purely formal character respecting the University of Toronto was introduced by the Premier. It provides for the appointment of an arbitrator or arbitrators to replace the official arbitrator, who in this case is an interested party.

To Incorporate Neustadt.

The Premier asked that the rules be suspended to permit the introduction of a bill to provide for the incorporation of the village of Neustadt, Grey county. This bill failed to get before the Standing Orders Committee owing to the fact that evidence of publication of the notice had not been given. It had been ascertained that the bill had been advertised in the local newspapers, and that if the Chairman had known of this the bill would have been admitted. The village had almost the statutory population, and there was evidence that Neustadt would be considerably inconvenienced if this bill were not admitted.

Too Much to Cobalt.

A second time the Premier asked that the rules be suspended to introduce a bill respecting the town of Cobalt. By some mistake, he explained, a large amount of territory had been taken into the town of Cobalt which was not intended, as a result of some mistakes in the filing of plans which were subsequently included in the proclamation in connection with the incorporation of the town. The parties interested had been endeavoring, in conjunction with the office of the Provincial Secretary, to see if this mistake could not be rectified by the issue of another proclamation. After a considerable time had elapsed it was found that there was very great doubt indeed whether the Provincial Secretary's office could with legal effect issue another proclamation, and in the meantime, through no fault of theirs, the people of Cobalt interested were shut out from the Standing Orders Committee.

Hon. Mr. Monteith's bill to amend the agricultural societies act was read a second time.

To Extend Good Roads.

On the suggestion of Hon. Dr. Reaume, Mr. Lennox withdrew his bill to amend the act for the improvement of highways by extending its provisions to towns and villages. At present only townships are eligible. The Minister stated that the Government had this matter under consideration, and the idea might be found embodied in the consolidation of the act which was now in progress.

Prosecutions Decreased.

In reply to Mr. Graham the Provincial

Secretary said that between March 1, 1904 and 1905, there were 18 prosecutions instituted by the License Inspector of South Renfrew against the hotelkeepers of Arnprior. There were sixteen convictions, and the fines imposed were \$310. For the corresponding period of 1905-06 there were seven prosecutions and six convictions, the fines amounting to \$170. For the corresponding period of 1906-07 there were three prosecutions and two convictions, the fines imposed being \$20. Mr. McNaught introduced a bill amending the act respecting investments by trustees by widening their powers somewhat as to deposits with loan companies.

ALGOMA RAILWAY'S DESIRE

SUGGEST BOND GUARANTEE INSTEAD OF LAND GRANT.

Deputation Waited on the Government Yesterday in Respect to the Matter—Would Extend Road to Connect With the Transcontinental Line.

The Algoma Central Railway is asking that the Government take back the land grant given to the road at its inception, and in lieu thereof guarantee the bonds to the extent of \$25,000 a mile, for the road and extensions to connect with the Transcontinental Railway. The line is now built from the Soo towards Michipicoten Harbor, for a distance of about ninety miles, and is graded for almost all the rest of the 110 miles to Michipicoten. It is from there that the road would be constructed to connect with the main line of the C.P. R. at a point between Dalton and White River, and thence continue to the Transcontinental Railway. It would also connect with the proposed C. N. R. line through that section. Twenty-two miles of the road, from Michipicoten Harbor to the famous Helen iron mines, are also completed.

The road is one of the auxiliary plans of the Clergue enterprises at the Soo.

The land grant was voted in an act passed in 1900, and consisted of 7,400 acres a mile. The time for finishing the line expired in May, 1906, and was extended to May of this year. As it is impossible that it could be completed in that time, those interested want a further extension, as well as the guarantee asked.

A deputation consisting of Messrs. F. H. Clergue, W. H. Hearst, Sault Ste. Marie; Wilson Smith, Montreal, and Colonel Orviss, New York, waited on the Government to-day in respect to the matter. They were accompanied by Messrs. Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., C. B. Smith, W. R. Smyth, M.P.P., R. R. Gamey, M.P.P., E. Dunlop, M.P.P., and J. Duff, M.P.P. Consideration was promised.