

SOO GUARANTEE AGAIN EXTENDED.

**Government Consent to Carry
it Six Months.**

MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES.

**Particulars Must be Given in
Notice of Bills.**

**The Legislature to Take a Vacation
Over Easter—Considerable Routine
Business Transacted at Yesterday's
Session.**

On motion of the Premier the Legislature, after the transaction of considerable business, mostly routine, adjourned until Wednesday, April 3. The short vacation will be most welcome to members on both sides of the House, who have found the work in the committees, to say nothing of that in the Chamber, during the last few weeks exceptionally trying. It will also enable the members of the Government to devote some time to the consideration of several measures which have been standing for that purpose. The departmental offices at the buildings will be closed from to-night until Tuesday morning.

Hon. Mr. Matheson, replying to Mr. Graham, said the supplementary estimates would be down next week, and that the proof of the annual report of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway Commission had gone back to the printers, and the report would be out shortly.

Soo Loan Guarantee Extended.

Hon. Mr. Matheson announced that the Government have consented to a renewal for six months from April 1 next of the guarantee of the outstanding \$1,000,000 of the "Soo loan," as it is popularly called. The guarantee given by the former Administration on behalf of the great industries of the Lake Superior Corporation at the Soo was for \$2,000,000. On May 1, 1906, the Government were relieved of \$1,000,000 of the guarantee, and for the balance the Government agreed to a renewal until November 1. In October, however, on the request of the Canadian Improvement Company, which has charge of the re-organization of the corporation, another six months' extension was given.

In making the announcement of the latest extension Hon. Mr. Matheson said the Canadian Improvement Company had been endeavoring to make an arrangement by which the Government would be relieved of the guarantee. This, owing to the state of the money market, they had been unable to do, hence the extension, to which all the other interested parties had agreed.

Hon. Dr. Pyne introduced a bill to amend the Department of Education act. This is intended to put into effect the increased grants to public and separate rural schools.

Keep Life Policies in Force.

Mr. Dunlop moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Ontario insurance act. The act, he explained, provided that in case a premium is not paid when due, the company shall borrow from the cash surrender value of the policy to keep it in force. At present the law allows an extension of thirty days in which time the premium may be paid. The proposed measure would go

considerably farther. It proposes that if the unpaid premiums were less than the loan value of the policy the latter should not lapse.

Mr. Graham complimented Mr. Dunlop on his grasp of the insurance situation, and desired to know if the bill would have a tendency to increase the rates. Fraternal societies made much of their profits through lapses.

Hon. Mr. Foy thought it dangerous to interfere with the contracts of the companies.

The bill was referred to the Legal Committee.

Mr. Mahaffy moved the second reading of his bill to amend the public schools act. The bill provides for the collection of arrears of school taxes in unorganized territory. Hon. Dr. Pyne intimated that the Government would consider incorporating the amendment in the proposed education bill.

Berlin to Get Its Railway.

The House went into committee on a bill respecting the town of Berlin, which authorized the town to take over the street railway on payment into court of the arbitrators' award of \$75,200. Mr. Lackner moved an amendment, which carried, that the amount to be paid over be \$75,200, less \$30,000, the amount of the bonds, leaving the amount to be paid to the company at present \$45,200. The amendment had met with the approval of the interested parties, Mr. Lucas explained, and was carried. On the third reading of the bill Berlin will take possession of the street railway.

Bring Municipalities to Time.

A motion of the Premier's, which met with instant approval on the part of the Opposition leader, provides that the rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended, so that in future the application of a municipality for a bill giving authority to issue debentures or for the consolidation of its debt shall set out full particulars of the existing debt and reasons. It also provides that every private bill of such character shall, after receiving its first reading, be referred to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board for their report.

In support of the motion the Premier said that it was of greatest importance that the danger which now existed in no mild degree as to ill-advised legislation getting through the House should be corrected. He need not, he said, give instances where municipal corporations made debts contrary to the law. He could give many. Therefore the Government had decided to take the step proposed. Mr. Graham thought the idea a good and a practical one. All were aware that many municipalities had reached their limit in the way of assessment, and were coming to the Legislature to secure sanction of issue of debentures without the consent of ratepayers. The plan would be of great assistance to the members of the House without taking away the prerogatives of the Assembly in considering bills brought before them. "And another good thing to commend it," concluded Mr. Graham, smilingly, "it will give the Railway Board something to do."

A number of bills were advanced in committee.

Mr. Cameron (West Huron) gives notice that he will move that the House regrets that his Majesty's advisers have not introduced in the House any measure respecting the subject of law reform.

CHILD-LABOR PROBLEMS.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION AS TO LEGISLATION.

**Truancy Act Should be Strengthened
and a Number of Other Reforms
Are Advocated—Labor in Shops and
Factories.**

The report of the Legislature's special committee on child labor was presented to the House yesterday afternoon by Hon. Mr. Monteith, Chairman of the committee. It will be remembered that the committee was appointed as the result of a motion in respect to child labor brought before the House by Mr. T. H. Preston (Brant). The committee held a number of meetings at which the evidence of factory inspectors, police and educational officials and medical practitioners was taken at some length. When the report was laid on the table yesterday Mr. Preston briefly drew attention to some astonishing facts brought out during the inquiry in respect to the truancy law, which seemed to call for the strengthening of that law. There was an enrollment of 397,000 school children in the Province, but the attendance averaged only 58 per cent. Of the 250 cities, towns and incorporated villages upon whom it was obligatory to appoint truancy officers and make truancy returns only 75 had sent in such reports, and there were no reports from rural municipalities at all. The consolidated school at Guelph had an average attendance of 90 per cent.

The report, which reviews the evidence at some length, makes the following recommendations:—

Uniform age of fourteen years for shops, factories and truancy acts.

Consolidation of factories and shops act and extension of operation to laundries and all other places in which work for wages is done.

Provision for inspection of hotels, concert halls, etc., with respect to employment of child labor.

Increase of staff of inspectors.

Municipalities should be compelled to enforce the truancy laws or else the Government should take the responsibility on its own shoulders.

No child to be employed who does not possess certificate from inspector or principal of school, or some other officer appointed by the school board for the purpose, that he is fourteen years of age, in sound physical condition and able to read and write. Attendance at night school may be substituted in some cases for attendance at day school of applicant of legal age.

Legislation to insure more complete returns of births, so as to assist tracing of ages.

No child under sixteen to be employed for more than 60 hours per week or eleven hours in any one day, or between 6.30 p.m. and 6.30 a.m.

Children under twelve years of age should be prohibited from working in

canning factories. Children under fourteen should not be employed at nights. The season during which this concession might be made to be from June 15 to Oct. 1 instead of June 1 to Nov. 1.

Orders in Council to be passed designating dangerous occupations to children, which has not yet been done.

Running of elevators and driving of delivery waggons by boys under sixteen to be forbidden.

Children under eighteen not to be employed in breweries or bottling works, nor under sixteen years where liquor is sold.

Attention should be given to our mining laws to see that conditions respecting employment of child labor are only those that there is necessity for, and that proper provision is made for inspection.

A Provincial law should be passed governing street trades, such as newsboys, etc. Provision should be made for newsboys and others working after