

SPOILS SYSTEM IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Mr. D. C. Ross, M.P.P., Asks
Government for Information.

A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT.

Hon. A. G. MacKay Points Out
Error in Government Bill.

Wrecked Government Steamer Lur-
line Was Not Insured—Cost \$10,-
000 Eighteen Months Ago—Mov-
ing Picture Shows to be Regulat-
ed—No Licenses for Thames Fish-
ermen.

Mr. D. C. Ross, M.P.P. for West
Middlesex, is endeavoring to obtain from
the Government information to show
how far they have carried the spoils
system in connection with the civil
service. He has asked for a return
showing how many civil servants have
been dismissed by the Whitney Govern-
ment and how many have resigned since
the last general election. Mr. Ross is
also anxious to find out to what extent
the number of civil servants has increas-
ed since 1904.

Yesterday's session of the Legisla-
ture was a very short and formal one.
In order to forward public business the
leader of the Opposition consented to
the waiving of the rule that bills should
be printed before receiving a second
reading, and four Government measures
were advanced a stage. In connec-
tion with the bill respecting public in-
quiries, Mr. MacKay called attention to
a piece of loose drafting which, had it
been unnoticed, might have resulted in
the Legislative Assembly losing the con-
stitutional right to inquire into mat-
ters affecting itself without the consent
of the Crown.

The Wrecked Lurline.

Hon. Dr. Reaume informed Mr. J. A.
Auld (South Essex) that the Govern-
ment fishery cruiser Lurline was pur-
chased on October 4th, 1907, from J.
Harrington Walker for \$10,000. The
boat was built in 1888 and was inspected
before purchase by Wm. E. Redway, no-
thing being spent on repairs. The
steamer was wrecked on October 26th,
1907, in spite of efforts to save her
by use of the Molton Dredging Com-
pany's (Goderich) tug. The engine and
boiler of the vessel had been sold for
\$850 to the highest bidder. The Lurline
was not insured.

Mr. McCoig asked if the Government
had decided to grant fishing licenses to
fishermen on the River Thames this year,
and, if not, whether they would make
provision for the Thames fishermen to
receive licenses to fish in Lake St.
Clair.

Hon. Dr. Reaume, in reply, said that
it was decided last session not to grant
licenses for the Thames for two years.
Fishermen could obtain licenses for Lake
St. Clair in the usual way without any
special provision.

Mr. C. R. McKeown (Dufferin) intro-
duced a bill to fix the assessment of
the Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge
Company. Mr. ~~F. B. Lucas~~ (Centre
Grey) introduced bills to permit Robert
Jordan to practise as a veterinary sur-
geon, and to fix the assessment of the
St. Thomas Y. M. C. A. and Y. W.

C. A. Mr. J. A. Auld (South Essex)
introduced a bill to amend the municipal
drainage act. All these measures re-
ceived their first reading.

Safety of the Public. *Harcourt*

The Hon. ~~A. G. MacKay~~ (North
Grey) inquired if the Government in-
tended to introduce further legislation
in the matter of guarding life in case of
accidents through fire, imperfect con-
struction relating to ingress, egress or
otherwise in public buildings.

The Hon. A. J. Matheson, in reply,
said that the Government were consid-
ering the introduction of legislation
respecting exhibitions of cinemeto-
graphic moving pictures and several
other matters.

The House went into committee to
consider the bill respecting the Execu-
tive Council. The Attorney-General ex-
plained that the bill contained no
changes in the law, but came before the
House as it had been revised by the
Statutes Revision Commission.

The bill was reported without any am-
endment being made.

The Bill Was Amended.

On the House going into committee
to consider the bill respecting inquiries
the leader of the Opposition pointed
out that the new section read, "A com-
mission for an inquiry under this sec-
tion shall not be issued during a session
of the Legislature without the consent
of the Legislature."

The effect of this would be that no
commission could issue without the con-
sent of the Crown, and the Legislative
Assembly would be deprived of the right
to inquire, without such consent, as to
matters affecting its members. He sug-
gested that the words "Legislative As-
sembly" should be substituted for Leg-
islature in the last line of the section.

The Premier thought the point would
be met if the substitution were made
where "Legislature" was first mentioned.

The bill so amended was reported to
the House.

The following bills were read a second
time:—Respecting the raising of loans
authorized by the Legislature; respect-
ing the consolidated revenue fund; to
supplement the revenues of the Crown
in the Province of Ontario; respecting
municipal securities.

On Monday Mr. J. W. Pearce (North
Hastings) will introduce a bill to amend
the assessment act.

Mr. Hoyle is Chairman.

The Standing Orders Committee of the
Legislature met yesterday for organ-
ization purposes. Mr. W. H. Hoyle, the
member for North Ontario, was elected
Chairman, this being his fourth session
in that position. Four minor bills were
reported yesterday.