

the measures proposed they would have enough of law reform. Mr. Whitney read a resolution passed in eastern counties seven years ago regarding law reform, and also quoted from the late Chief Justice Armour, claiming that the subject had not been brought up recently. The Government, he added, would not be wise in bringing in a law reform bill this session, and they would not have the interests of the Province at heart in so doing. He thought in three years the present Government had brought about more useful legislation than the preceding Government in thirty years. Mr. Whitney then took occasion to refer to the Conservative victory in Brockville, characterizing that constituency as a "scarified reminiscence of what a decent constituency ought to be." In conclusion, Mr. Whitney defended the appointment of Dr. Colquhoun as Deputy Minister of Education, and he denied absolutely that the Deputy Minister had obtained his appointment through any close relationship to members of the Government.

The address carried without a division.

Some New Bills.

The Hon. Frank Cochrane introduced a bill, which was read a first time, amending the act respecting Burlington Beach. The bill gives the commissioners power to borrow \$20,000 for water-works, and a similar amount for the improvement of the Beach park.

Mr. Craig (North Wellington) introduced a bill to amend the voters' act, for the purpose of enabling county Judges to correct clerical errors in the voters' list in cases in which they are convinced that mistakes have been made in the Court of Revision.

Some Bills Advanced.

At the night session the House went into committee on Hon. Mr. Hanna's bill respecting the registration of births, marriages and deaths. Hon. Mr. MacKay suggested that constables be given the power to prosecute persons failing to notify the proper authorities. The bill was left over, however.

Regarding his bill to amend the public lands act, Hon. Mr. Cochrane said the object of the bill was to keep settlers off the mineral lands and to prevent them from settling where there was no agricultural land. He said it would be better to buy townships and close them up than to allow settlers to go there if there was no agricultural land. The following bills were advanced in the committee stage:—Respecting election of members of the Legislative Assembly; to preserve the forests from destruction by fire; to amend the forests reserve act; to amend the act respecting free grants and homesteads in the Rainy River district, and to amend the supplementary revenue act. The bills reported by the Committee of the Whole House were:—Respecting the raising of loans authorized by the Legislature; respecting the consolidated revenue act. The House adjourned at 9.45 p.m.

Four Private Bills Reported.

The Private Bills Committee of the Legislature met yesterday and reported four bills.

The bill to fix the assessment of the Canadian side of the Niagara Falls suspension bridge at \$150,000 for ten years first came up. The bridge company was represented by Mr. J. H. Ingersoll, Mayor Carter and Mr. F. C. McBurney appeared for Niagara Falls city. Mr. Ingersoll pointed out that in 1896 the assessment had been fixed at \$150,000, but it had subsequently been increased to \$175,000. An appeal to the Railway Board had resulted in a reduction to \$135,000. The representatives of Niagara Falls agreed that the assessment of \$150,000 was a fair one. The bill was reported.

Mr. J. J. Preston (Durham) spoke to the bill to authorize the united counties of Northumberland and Durham to issue debentures to the amount of \$40,000 for the erection of a house of refuge and for completing the jail. He stated that \$60,000 had already been raised for the purpose of building a new jail and transforming the old jail into a house of refuge, and the jail had cost \$20,000 or \$30,000 more than was anticipated. This bill was also reported.

Mr. T. G. Carscallen (Lennox) explained that the bill of Napanee was to raise \$10,000 by debentures to complete the electric light and power works of the town. They had not voted sufficient money in the first place, he said, and the poles and wiring had cost more than anticipated. No amendment was made in the bill.

The assessment of 88 acres of land in Crowland township, adjoining the town of Welland, was fixed for twenty years in a bill reported. Hon. Mr. Harcourt explained that the township was anxious to secure a manufacturing plant to give employment to 1,000 men.

The discussion on the bill to ratify an agreement between Collingwood and the shipbuilding company will take place next Tuesday. To-morrow the bill respecting Port Hope and its harbor will come up.

Protecting Steelton.

Mr. C. N. Smith (Sault Ste. Marie) will father an amendment to the municipal act this session of the Legislature to prevent Steelton, a town of 3,000, being discriminated against. Steelton is virtually part of Sault Ste. Marie, only a street separating the two places. In places under 5,000 population unmarried men are assessed for incomes over \$400 and married men over \$700. In places over that population, such as Sault Ste. Marie, unmarried men are assessed on incomes over \$700 and married men on incomes over \$1,000. It is thus claimed that Steelton is getting the worst of the bargain. Mr. Smith says, so far as he knows, this is the only case of its kind in the Province.