

SESSION MAY END BY EASTER TIME.

Business Transacted Quickly
by the Legislature.

BUDGET NEXT WEEK.

Members Would Make Trouble
for Automobilists.

Mr. Devitt (West Durham) to Introduce a Bill Keeping Motor Vehicles Off Streets on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Part of Sunday—The Indemnity Deductions.

It is anticipated by members of the Cabinet that prorogation of the Legislature will come before Easter. No doubt this will be the case if the same rapid rate of progress continues as has characterized the sittings of the last two days. Yesterday in about two and a half hours an exceptionally large amount of business was transacted. No fewer than three Government measures passed the committee stage, and progress was reported on another. In each of these bills there was debate over certain clauses, and in that particular one respecting members of the Legislative Assembly Mr. A. Studholme raised the question of deductions from the sessional indemnity, much to the amusement of the House. The automobile has been responsible for many peculiar attempts at legislation, and another effort will be added to this series by Mr. J. H. Devitt (West Durham), who gave notice of a bill regarding motor vehicles. If Mr. Devitt has his way automobiles will not be allowed to run or stand on the streets or highways of any town, township, incorporated village or police village on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays, or on Sunday between 9 o'clock in the morning and two in the afternoon.

The Premier Explains.

Before the orders of the day were called Premier Whitney said: "I desire to do what I do not often have occasion to do, viz., to endeavor to correct a report in a newspaper of observations made by me: The Globe, no doubt inadvertently, leaves out the word 'too,' which makes all the possible difference in regard to my meaning. In the course of the interview with the Ontario branch of the Dominion Alliance, one of the clergymen who spoke declared, in unmistakable language, that they were 'in politics' in this matter. Speaking a few minutes afterward, I said: 'All I can say is that the Government is in politics too,' in reply to the clergyman, but the word 'too' was omitted, and it reads: 'All I can say is that the Government is in politics,' leaving the impression that politics is the sole principle or idea on which we act on this question of the liquor license act. I think it only fair to myself to draw attention to this, because I am satisfied that it occurred inadvertently, and they will correct it."

What is a Candidate?

When the House went into committee to consider the controverted elections bill, Hon. A. G. MacKay pointed out that there appeared to be some variance in the definition of the word candidate. Apparently, if a man were nominated by a convention he immediately became a candidate within the meaning of the bill. If, however, a

man put himself forward independently he was not a candidate until the writ for the election was issued. As, under the bill, candidates suffered certain disabilities, he thought the definition should be made clear, and applicable to all.

Premier Whitney, however, did not see any ambiguity in the language, and the clause was passed and the bill reported.

Who Keeps Tab on Members?

The bill respecting the Legislative Assembly was also dealt with in committee. Mr. Studholme wanted to know if the rule regarding deductions from members' indemnity was ever enforced. He thought that some check or "tab," as he expressed it, should be kept.

Premier Whitney replied that members went to the accounting officer and presumably complied with the regulations. Presumably the members complied with the rule, he said.

Mr. Studholme said he thought that

in the Dominion House the absence or presence of members was accounted for by roll call.

Gives Too Much Power.

With the bill regarding municipal securities in committee three Liberal members, Hon. Mr. MacKay, Mr. Preston (South Brant), and Mr. McDougal (Ottawa), stated that too much power would be given the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board regarding the certifying of the validity of debenture by-laws, etc. However, the Premier and Hon. Mr. Foy maintained that the wording in the bill was correct, and the measure was reported without amendment.

Teachers' Salaries.

The question of Hon. Richard Harcourt regarding the average salaries paid school teachers from 1902 to 1907 was answered by Hon. Dr. Pyne, as follows:—1902, male \$436, female \$313; 1903, male \$465, female \$324; 1904, male \$485, female \$335; 1905, male \$514, female \$348; 1906, male \$547, female \$369. The returns for 1907 are not available as yet.

Mr. R. A. Thompson (North Wentworth) has given notice of his intention to introduce a bill to amend the public libraries act. The object of the bill is to allow police villages recently organized to take over public libraries formerly established in townships.

More Automobile Bills.

Mr. R. H. McElroy desires to amend the law so that Police Magistrates may impound automobiles for a term up to fifteen days when drivers have broken the law with regard to speed.

Mr. J. H. Devitt (West Durham) is also out after the automobilists with a bill to provide that no motor vehicle shall be run or be allowed to stand upon any highway in a town, township or incorporated village or police village during Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday in any week, or between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays.

Improvements at Niagara.

The Attorney-General gave notice of a bill to amend the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park act, giving power to the commissioners, subject to the approval of the Lieut.-Governor in Council, to borrow \$100,000 for improvements. The money so borrowed is to be applied primarily to the preservation of the bank of the Niagara River between Fort Erie and the southerly boundary of the park. The commissioners may also construct an esplanade along that portion of the river bank.

Hon. Mr. Foy also gave notice of a bill ratifying the agreement between the Queen Victoria Park Commissioners and the Electrical Development Company of Ontario, Limited. The agreement gives the company power to transmit electrical power generated at their works to the power house of the Canadian Niagara Power Company by means of a conduit for a period of three years. The company must furnish the commissioners half-yearly returns of the amount of power so transmitted, and the Superintendent of the commission is empowered to inspect.

Hon. Mr. Foy also gave notice of a bill respecting the Queenston Heights Park.

Budget Next Week.

Before the adjournment Hon. Mr. MacKay asked when the public accounts would be brought down.

Mr. Whitney—The Provincial Treasurer is out of town. It is the desire that the budget speech should be made next week, about the middle of the week, I suppose. If I recollect aright, the estimates come down before the

budget.

Mr. MacKay agreed that that was the only fair way of dealing with these matters, and then asked about the re-distribution bill.

The Premier—I propose not later than Monday to consult with my hon. friend about that.

The bill to amend the act respecting Burlington Beach was given its second reading, and the private bill respecting the united counties of Northumberland and Durham was reported by the committee without amendment. The bills respecting the county of Wellington and the town of Mount Forest and respecting by-laws of the town of Thorold were given second readings.

Will Board Name Streets?

An interesting point is being raised in connection with the bill now before the Legislature to amend the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board act, as to whether it will give to the board power to designate streets on which street railway tracks may be laid. The clause is as follows:—

"If any dispute shall arise between the company and the municipality as to the location of the rails in any street or highway, as to the pavement of the street or highway, or as to the concrete or other foundation upon which the rails or special work should be laid, or as to the rails or special work used in construction, or as to the proportion of the cost of the said pavements, concrete or other foundations to be borne by the company and the municipality respectively, the board shall hear and determine all questions in dispute and make such order as to it may seem just and reasonable."

The question is whether the words "as to the location of the rails in any street or highway" apply to highways already designated, or whether this gives that power to the board.

This Bill Was Killed.

The Private Bills Committee of the Legislature expressed an opinion in no uncertain terms yesterday with reference to allowing unlicensed persons to practise in the professions.

An application was made in behalf of William Jordan of Dutton to allow him to practise as a veterinary surgeon and the committee threw out the application on general principles. This was the first bill killed by the committee this session. The bill respecting the renewal of certain debentures of the town of Port Hope and the Port Hope Harbor, providing for an extension to 40 years on certain debentures which had already run 22 years, was favored by Mr. Preston (Durham). Some of the members thought 30 years was sufficient and it was decided to confer with the Railway and Municipal Board.