

MORE MEN NEEDED TO PROTECT GAME.

Should be More Paid Wardens,
Says Mr. Smith.

TO TAX RACE MEETINGS.

Safety of Public Buildings to be
Considered.

Legislature Has Discussion Over
Amendments to Ontario Game and
Fisheries Act and Question of Il-
legal Slaughter of Game Brought
Up—Legislation Regarding Small
Theatres.

The protection of game in New Ontario was the subject of a debate in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, which was initiated by Mr. C. N. Smith (Sault Ste. Marie). The bill of Hon. Dr. Reaume providing certain amendments to the Ontario game and fisheries act was in committee, when Mr. Smith stated that Game Wardens should be paid, and paid well. He pictured the wanton and illegal slaughter which was going on in New Ontario. Mr. Smith argued that men could hardly be expected to go out in the woods to enforce the law when there was no remuneration. The statement was obtained from the Government benches that legislation would be brought down with respect to small theatres or "theatatoriums" which have become so plentifully sprinkled throughout the Province of late. Premier Whitney volunteered the statement that the estimates for the year might be brought down to-day or by Monday at the latest.

Protection in Public Buildings.

Before the orders of the day were considered Hon. Mr. Harcourt inquired of the Commissioner of Public Works if anything were to be done affecting the egress from public buildings. The catastrophe in Cleveland, Ohio, had apparently been the result of very ineffective legislation, he thought. Mr. Harcourt said he did not know of a matter of more importance with respect to legislation at present.

Hon. Dr. Reaume assured Mr. Harcourt that the matter had attracted the attention of the department.

Hon. Mr. Matheson stated that there was a law at present making it compulsory that doors of public buildings open outward. Hon. Mr. Harcourt, however, pointed out that there seemed to be a danger in the theatatoriums which were scattered so plentifully throughout the Province.

Hon. Mr. Matheson in reply stated that some of the films in the moving picture machines used in the theatatoriums were of celluloid, and consequently were quite inflammable. The remedy apparently was to have the moving picture machines enclosed in iron boxes. The Government, he added, intended bringing in a bill along this line this session. One difficulty had been found, and that was that the machines in theatatoriums were generally placed over doorways. The Government would probably follow the Massachusetts law in this respect, he added.

Pay Game Wardens.

When the House went into committee on the bill of Hon. Dr. Reaume to amend the Ontario game and fisheries act, Mr. C. N. Smith (Sault Ste. Marie) drew attention to the clause that deputy game and fishery wardens should be appointed without salary.

If the law were to be enforced these men should be paid, and paid well, he argued, so that they could devote their whole time to the work. As a consequence of this neglect there was a fearful illegal slaughter of game from year to year. These men could not be expected to go out into the country to enforce the law when there was nothing in it for them.

Hon. Dr. Reaume said that the purpose of the clause was to satisfy the demands of certain sections where men could be given authority. There were salaried officials, however. He thought there were more fines and seizures during the last two years than for a number of years prior to that. There were paid game wardens at North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Kenora. He admitted, however, that it was impossible to strictly enforce the law.

Mr. Pratt (N. Norfolk) was successful with an amendment to the law preventing using decoys more than 200 yards out from a shore or bank of rushes. The amendment also allows the use of decoys for 200 yards beyond a water line enclosing game preserves or private property.

Other Government measures given a second reading were: respecting the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park, Hon. Mr. Foy; respecting an agreement between the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park Commissioners and the Electrical Development Company, Hon. Mr. Foy.

Returns and Answers.

Mr. May (Ottawa) moved for a return showing what timber berths during the last two years had been put up for sale by the T. & N. O. Commission. He also wanted to know the prices which had been obtained and the names of the purchasers.

Hon. Dr. Reaume stated that the commission never had any timber berths for sale. However, Mr. May revised his question, making it apply to the timber on the right of way.

Replying to a question of Mr. Sutherland (South Oxford), Hon. Dr. Reaume stated that in 1906 ninety dozen quail were imported by the Government, and were distributed as follows:—Kent, fifteen dozen; Essex, fifteen; Middlesex, ten; Elgin, three, and Bothwell, ten. In 1907 ninety dozen were purchased, and an extra ten dozen were given gratis, being distributed as follows:—Kent, fifteen dozen; Essex, thirty; Middlesex, thirty; Elgin, three; Wentworth, three, and Lambton and Huron, fifteen.

Mr. McMillan (Glengarry) was told by Hon. Mr. Cochrane that Charles Burns occupied the position of home-stead inspector in Parry Sound. His salary was \$900 a year, but the Government were not aware that he had been for several months actively engaged in canvassing as a prospective candidate for the Commons.

Question of Money.

Mr. McCoig (West Kent) asked:—(1) What is the total amount of the moneys under the control of the accountant of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Ontario? (2) Through what agent or agents are these sums invested? (3) What commission is paid to the agent or agents? (4) What is the rate received on such invested funds by the persons entitled?

The following answer was submitted by Hon. Mr. Foy:—(1) Amount in court on December 31, 1907, \$3,514,367.48, apportioned as follows:—Deposit in

bank bearing three per cent. interest, \$278,919.78; (a) Ontario municipal debentures, \$950,645.96; (b) certificates of the University of Toronto, \$528,088.50; (c) Ontario mortgages, \$767,780.24; (d) Manitoba mortgages, \$311,350; (e) Manitoba mortgages, \$677,583.

(2) All except the University certificates were invested through the Toronto General Trusts Corporation, which guarantees the payment of the principal and interest.

(3) The court receives on investments marked (a) 3¼ per cent., (b) 3½ per cent., (c) 4 per cent., (d) 4 per cent., (e) 4½ per cent., and the difference between the rates payable by the borrower and the above rate is received by the Toronto General Trusts Corporation for its services. The corporation pays all commissions, the cost of management, and all other outgoings and expenses besides guaranteeing the prompt payment of all principal and interest on every investment. A readjustment of rates payable to the court has been under consideration for several months, and negotiations to that end are still pending.

(4) Three and a half per cent. is paid to suitors, but to litigants, where money is paid into court with a defence as security for costs, as a security for debt or costs to stay execution, as a deposit for sale and for other merely temporary purposes, the interest allowed is two per cent. after the money

has been in court six months.

Some New Bills.

Mr. J. J. Craig (East Wellington) introduced three acts: one to remove certain disqualifications preventing persons from being high school trustees, another regarding consolidated schools, and another transferring the responsibility for the removal of noxious weeds from ratepayers to pathmasters of rural highways.

Mr. Lennox (North York) introduced two bills to amend the sections of the railway act relating to expropriation proceedings. At present where the railway and the land-owner do not agree upon arbitrators the County Judge can only name a Provincial land surveyor. Mr. Lennox's amendment would permit the Judge to appoint any competent person, as land surveyors in certain cases may be biased by the fact that they are looking to the railways for employment. Another amendment would make it compulsory upon the company to take up an arbitrator's award. At present in many instances the arbitrator's fees are so high that the farmer cannot take up the award. Still another amendment would allow the arbitrators to extend the time for making their awards without necessitating the expense of an application to the Judge.

Tax Race Meetings.

Mr. T. H. Lennox (North York) will introduce a bill for the purpose of taxing race meetings and also limiting their length. Mr. Lennox proposes that no race association shall hold more than two meetings a year, neither of which shall exceed sixteen days in length. The meetings must also be thirty days apart. He also proposes to follow the principle adopted in New York and tax the meeting with the object of assisting in the improvement of breeding. In New York five per cent. of the gross receipts are taken, and it is probable the same amount will be taken under Mr. Lennox's bill. Race associations will have to make sworn declarations as to their receipts and hand the percentage over to the Minister of Agriculture for the purpose mentioned. The regulations will only apply to meetings at which running races are held.

The following notices of motion were given: To amend the municipal act, Mr. Tucker (West Wellington); to amend the municipal act, Mr. McNaught.