

MORE REVISION OF THE STATUTES

Many Bills Dealt With in the Committee Stage.

LAWYERS IN AGREEMENT.

Their Opinions on the Act Re- specting Executions.

The Question of Combatting Tubercu- losis Will Again be Brought to the Attention of the Legislature— Deputations Wait Upon the Gov- ernment.

With the regularity of a minute-gun the voice of the Chairman of the House in Committee of the Whole was heard at the Legislature yesterday declaring "carried." Practically the whole afternoon was spent in the committee stage dealing with bills revising the statutes sent on from the Judges. In the course of the general dullness of mechanical action there were, however, one or two points of interest raised. Discussing the amendment of the judicature act, the leader of the Opposition once again urged it would be an advantage to litigants if Judges acting as official referees were paid by salary and not by fees. The Government, however, did not see fit to accept the suggestion. Mr. MacKay also suggested another reform in regard to the reports of Sheriffs. Under the existing law Sheriffs are called upon to send in their reports before January 15, and the result is that they are not printed and available before June for those desiring to consult them. It was proposed that the year for these and similar reports should be made to close on the same date as the new fiscal year, and then they would be ready for consideration when the Legislature was called together.

Mr. D. J. McDougal raised a point as to the qualifications of jurors, arguing that no juror should be allowed to qualify on property owned by his wife. To this the Attorney-General jocularly replied that if a man were shrewd enough to win a wife with property, then he was shrewd enough to sit on a jury.

Lawyers in Agreement.

Lawyers on both sides of the House were found to be in absolute agreement in regard to another amendment proposed by the Judges. The bill under discussion was the act respecting executions. The bill provided that executions from the higher County Court should be binding upon goods and land when the writ is handed to the Sheriff. Under the present Divisional Court practice an execution does not bind goods until the seizure is made. Messrs. MacKay, McDougal and Proudfoot, from the Opposition benches, strongly contended that under the proposed change no purchaser would be safe unless he had searched the Sheriff's office for executions, and in this view they were supported by Messrs. Nickle (Kingston) and Hearst (Sault Ste. Marie), and the clause was therefore allowed to stand over. Altogether fourteen bills passed the committee stage.

Mr. F. Macdiarmid (West Elgin) has introduced a bill, promoted by the city of St. Thomas, to amend the municipal act. The bill proposes to abolish the power of the courts to quash by-laws in regard to the licensing of hawkers, on the ground that the fees charged are prohibitory

and in restraint of trade.

The Great White Plague.

The question of dealing with tuberculosis will again occupy the attention of the Legislature. Both Mr. J. P. Downey and Dr. Forbes Godfrey, who last session fathered bills framed with the object of doing something to eradicate the great white plague, will again bring similar measures before the Assembly. Dr. Godfrey's bill was intended to deal directly with cases that had reached the hospital stage, and last session the Government promised that steps should be taken to inquire into the whole matter with a view of ascertaining the best method of procedure. It was felt that there would be some difficulty in allocating the cost of such hospitals as Dr. Godfrey advocated between the Government and the various local authorities, and fixing the proportion of the cost of maintenance to be paid by patients who were in a position to contribute. Mr. Downey's resolutions, on the other hand, are aimed rather at the establishment of an educational campaign. He would place the whole matter under the jurisdiction of the Boards of Health, making notification of cases of consumption compulsory. After notification it would be the duty of the local authority to send to the family in which the case existed literature informing them how tuberculosis should be dealt with.

Hamilton Technical School.

Basing their claim on the fact that when opened the Hamilton Technical

School will be available to students from all over the Province, a deputation of the trustees asked the Government yesterday to make an annual grant in aid of the institution. The deputation was received by Sir James Whitney, the Hon. Col. Matheson, Provincial Treasurer, and the Hon. Dr. Pyne, Minister of Education. It was pointed out to the representatives of the Administration that the city of Hamilton had already expended \$60,000 in the erection of buildings, and that before the school was completely equipped the total cost would aggregate some \$125,000. Taking this into consideration as well as the fact that the institution would be equally open to students from any part of the Province, the deputation expressed the opinion that the least the Government could do was to make a grant in aid of \$5,000 a year. At the same time they drew the Government's attention to the fact that, although last year a sum of \$2,000 was placed in the estimates for the use of the trustees in connection with the school, through some oversight the city had failed to take advantage of the vote. It was, therefore, asked that it should be again included in the estimates for the current year. The Premier promised that the facts as laid before the Government should receive consideration.

Pure Milk Commission.

Mr. W. K. McNaught, M.P.P. for North Toronto, intends to continue his campaign in favor of pure milk. Last year he endeavored to obtain legislation dealing with the matter, but his efforts in that direction were not successful. This session the "A" member for North Toronto will again call the attention of the Ontario legislators to the great need of ensuring the purity of the milk supply, but instead of promoting a bill he will move a resolution asking for the appointment of a commission to inquire into the whole subject. It is probable that the Government will accept this proposal, and that three commissioners will be chosen from outside the ranks of the Legislature to hear evidence.

Minimum Pay for Sheriffs.

According to a notice of motion placed on the order paper of the Legislature in the name of the Attorney-General, one of the anomalies in connection with the office of Sheriff is to be done away with. In some districts for a number of years now it has been almost impossible to get responsible persons to accept office because the emoluments being by way of fees, the amount received, owing to there being such a small quantity of public business transacted, has been practically nil. The Government now proposes that a minimum should be fixed, and in cases where the fees do not reach that minimum that the difference shall be made up from the public treasury. The Government has not yet decided upon the minimum to be fixed, being desirous of getting opinions from members of the House before taking any definite step, but it is understood that \$1,200 is the sug-