

MARCH 9, 1909

LEGISLATORS NOT BUSY.

**HOLD A SHORT SESSION AND DO
VERY LITTLE BUSINESS.**

Hon. Mr. MacKay Introduces a Measure for the Amendment of the Municipal Act--Responsibility for Gas Explosions.

One of the anomalies of the municipal act was pointed out by the leader of the Opposition yesterday afternoon in the Legislature in moving the second reading of his bill to amend that measure. As the law stands at present there is no restriction as to the number of representatives that a municipality may send to the County Council. Hon. A. G. MacKay is moving to have the law so amended that it may be specifically laid down that representation shall be on the basis of population.

The session was again a very quiet one. In fact, there was nothing very much for the legislators of Ontario to do, for, as the Premier said, they had caught up with the printer, and the sitting came to an end because no more of the embryo legislation was ready to be proceeded with.

The bill introduced by Mr. W. S. Brewster (South Brant) making insurance companies liable for damage done by explosions of natural gas was given its second reading, and referred to the Legal Committee in order that the companies affected may be heard in regard to the matter.

The Premier characterized Mr. Pearce's bill to amend the assessment act, reducing the assessment on mills to thirty-five per cent. and on printing plants to thirty-five per cent., as a magnificent example of an attempt at irregular legislation. It would, he said, interfere with the whole operation of the bill, but nevertheless it was given a second reading, and then relegated to the limbo of the special committee that will sit between sessions to consider all the amendments of the act that have been proposed.

Mr. Valentine Stock (Perth) has given notice of motion for an order of the House for a return showing every appointment made by the Government to any educational office or employment since the Government took office.