

MARCH 23, 1909.

AUTOMOBILE ACT BEST IN AMERICA

Discussion in Legislature
Disclosed the Fact.

NEW JUDGE FOR YORK COUNTY

Provision Made for the Appointment of a Third Junior County Court Judge.

Automobiles formed the principal topic of discussion in the Legislature yesterday and the fact was brought to light that the Ontario Automobile Act was considered by drivers and owners of horses to be the best law on the continent. A special committee will be appointed to make a few necessary minor amendments to the Act. Truancy was also discussed and several consolidated Government bills were introduced. Hon. Mr. Cochrane introduced a bill to provide better protection for miners in case of accident. In future when an inquest is held the Inspector of Mines must be notified. The Minister of Mines also introduced a bill to separate Burlington Beach from the Township of Saltfleet. He also introduced a bill which defines definitely that only in the municipality where a profitable mine is worked can the owner be assessed on his income.

First Third Reading.

The first piece of legislation to be completed this session is Hon. Mr. Foy's bill to amend the Judicature Act, which was given its third reading yesterday. The bill is a consolidation and contains no new features.

Hon. Mr. Foy moved his bill respecting county and district judges and local courts back into committee. The Government had decided to amend the bill, he said, by providing for the appointment of a third junior judge in the County of York, where the congestion of legal business warranted and made necessary an increase in the judiciary. The new appointee will be known as the third junior judge of the County of York.

Hon. Dr. Reaume amended his bill for the development of water power at Dog Lake, under which \$40,000, instead of \$20,000, is set apart for the building of the dams. The engineers' reports showed that the change was necessary.

In reply to the leader of the Opposition regarding the revision of the Truancy Act, Hon. Dr. Pyne said the difficulty in the past had been to get municipal authorities to appoint truant officers. Mr. Mackay admitted that such was the case, and thought if the appointments were left in the hands of school boards men would be appointed who would take a real interest in the enforcement of the law. Mr. A. H. Musgrove (North Huron) agreed with Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Valentine Stock (South Perth) endorsed the views which had been expressed. He thought it would be unfortunate if a community which already had an efficient police force which could act in the matter should be saddled with an additional officer.

The Minister of Education was doubtful of the wisdom of handing the power over to school boards and the clause passed without amendment.

Automobiles Discussed.

Mr. J. J. Craig (East Wellington) admitted that automobiles had come to stay, but at the same time the farmers should have some protection. The bill, of

and reading, regulated the speed and operation of motor vehicles, and did not apply to cities or towns. Ninety per cent. of the people who drove automobiles were gentlemen, but the 10 per cent. were "scallawags" and should be controlled.

Mr. W. K. McNaught suggested that the five similar bills should be considered by the Government. The bills introduced by private members were unfair to automobilists. Instead of referring the bills to a special committee, he thought the Government should consider the matter and bring in a Government bill.

Dr. Godfrey (West York) thought horses were becoming accustomed to automobiles. He thought the present law was a good one.

Mr. Musgrove did not favor the clause in the bill giving municipalities the control of automobiles. Any control should be provincial.

Mr. McEwing (West Wellington) thought a term of imprisonment was the only cure for some motorists.

Hon. Mr. Mackay agreed with Mr. McEwing. He would go further, and on the third offence would deprive the driver and owner of a license for the year, or for ever. Drastic action was necessary.

Mr. Craig thought the people who paid for the roads should have the control of them.

Could be Avoided.

Mr. Gooderham (South Toronto) thought they should be guided by the legislation of older countries. Some of the clauses in Mr. Craig's bill would practically put the automobiles off the roads. He had been driving an automobile ever since the first one was brought into Canada, and had never seen and never had an accident. Of course, he said, the accidents did happen, but the facts proved that accidents could be avoided by careful driving.

Mr. Reed (South Wentworth) advocated a drastic law.

Hon. Mr. Hanna suggested that the bill go to the Municipal Committee and be discussed, but not as a new bill. The committee had discussed such bills and had brought in a very creditable automobile bill. Last year one or two trifling changes were made in the bill. It might be that the bill would stand one or two changes in the line of punishment for old offenders. The present Automobile Bill had been pointed to again and again as the best Automobile Bill on the statute books of any province or State on the continent.

Sir James Whitney was glad to note the change of opinion in the House regarding automobiles. The seriousness of the situation became apparent when it was remembered that two-thirds of the vehicles on the country roads were driven by women and children. His own idea of the only remedy was that drivers of autos should stop and assist the drivers of the horses. The automobile had become a part of commercial life, and in the State of Kansas 1,000 autos were used by farmers. In a very few years the automobile would be in general use. He thought the driver of an automobile convicted of a third offence for personal injury should not be allowed to drive a vehicle of any kind.

It would be admitted readily that municipalities should not have control of the automobiles, for all kinds of checker board regulations would follow. The present Automobile Bill was constantly referred to, and he suggested that the bill, together with any others of a similar nature, should be referred to a special committee to be named later.

Sir James' suggestion was acted upon. Mr. McNaught moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Municipal Act, which contains 13 amendments.

New Bills Introduced.

The following new bills were introduced:—

To amend the Supplementary Revenue Act, 1907—Hon. Mr. Cochrane.

To amend the Burlington Beach Act—Hon. Mr. Cochrane.

To amend the Free Grants and Homestead Act—Hon. Mr. Cochrane.

To amend and improve the law respecting mine accidents and operation of mines—Hon. Mr. Cochrane.

To amend the Municipal Act—Hon. Dr. Reaume.

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Elliott.

Respecting the Department of Education—Hon. Dr. Pyne.

To amend the Assessment Act—Mr. McEwing.

To amend and extend the Land Titles Act—Mr. Mahaffy.

Notices of Motion.

Mr. McPherson—Bill to regulate the

sale of firearms.

Mr. Norman—Bill to amend the Public Libraries Act.

Mr. Elliott—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Studholme—Enquiry of Ministry:—How many immigrants did the Government of this province bring out from Great Britain and Ireland during the season of 1908? How many of these were male and how many female? How many of these were placed in the homes of the farmers of the Province of Ontario? Give the names and addresses of these farmers. Did any of those so placed remain? If so, how long? Can you give the names and addresses of any still remaining?

Mr. Studholme—Enquiry of Ministry:—How many immigrants did the Salvation Army bring out from Great Britain and Ireland during the season of 1908? How many of these were male and how many female? How many of these were placed in the homes of the farmers of the Province of Ontario? Give the names and addresses of these farmers? Did any of those so placed remain? If so, how long? Give the names and addresses of any still remaining.

Also:—How many farmers did this Government induce to come to the Province of Ontario during the year 1908? Did any rent, lease or purchase farms? If so, how many? Are all still on these farms? If not, why not? Did any take up Government land? If so, did they purchase it or acquire it on the home-steading plan? Can the Government give the names and addresses of these farmers?

Tuberculosis Commission.

Mr. Godfrey—That whereas the prevalence of pulmonary tuberculosis demands that action be taken by the Legislature of this province, to afford relief from existing conditions, and whereas the movement for the establishment of municipal sanatoria, where sufferers from tuberculosis can be given necessary treatment and education to cure and prevent the spread of this dread disease, has received practically the unanimous endorsement of the

medical profession of this province as well as that of the press. Therefore, be it resolved, that in the opinion of this House, a commission of three persons, two at least of whom shall be physicians who have given some study to the question, should be appointed to investigate the conditions existing in the province in this regard, and the advisability and practicability of the establishment of a provincial sanitarium, such commission to report to this House at an early day.