

lic ownership of this utility to the horizon of Provincial politics. Mr. Downey's compulsory notification campaign against tuberculosis is growing and he promised to continue the battle.

Progress in Power Policy.

Among the larger issues the progress made in the power policy is outstanding. All Hydro-electric contracts have been validated and the Government authorized to raise money for the building of the transmission line. Moreover, under Hon. Adam Beck's bill, municipal Councils are required in future to take a vote of the people before entering into any contracts or franchises that extend over their year. The Government has amended its policy on the question of Sunday street cars, to enable the larger cities to deal individually with the problem upon a vote of the people, while it has been generous in new and renewed land and money grants to various railway enterprises proposing new lines calculated to open up the northern country.

Tribulations of Big Majority.

The cumbersome—not to say embarrassing—character of the Government's huge majority has emphasized individual thought within its ranks. Only two divisions were taken during the session, and in both Government members broke from their party leading-strings and threw in their lot with the Opposition. It has been generally an encouraging session for the small Liberal representation to the left of the Speaker.

Change in Insurance Laws.

Mr. Wm. Proudfoot (Centre Huron) has done important work in relation to improvement in the operation of insurance laws, and the result is activity of the companies to live up to the law. In withdrawing his resolution for a commission of inquiry, Mr. Proudfoot explained that he had been interviewed by the friendly and benevolent societies, who had pointed out that to press the matter would work them great injury at a time when they are using every endeavor to place themselves on the now recognized basis. All but two companies have already taken action. He had no desire to do injury to the companies, and felt he had already accomplished what he had in view.

In reference to mutuals the Attorney-General accepted Mr. Proudfoot's suggestion and incorporated the amendment in the insurance act, outlined in yesterday's Globe. This change, according to the Provincial Superintendent of Insurance, will strengthen the hands of the Province in regulating the conduct and operation of the companies, and accomplish a great deal of good.

Clause 606 Stays.

Clause 606, making municipalities liable for damages for accidents by reason of lack of repair on roadways, stands, after all. When the Legislature met yesterday it went into committee on Hon. Mr. Hanna's municipal amendment act. This act is the result of the decisions of the Municipal Committee, and contained an amendment to the clause requiring notice of the lack of repair to be given before damages could be sued for.

Hon. A. G. MacKay, the Liberal leader, moved that the clause be struck out and the section left unchanged. "A man is driving along in the dark on a highway new to him. What chance has he got? The roads are not for the exclusive use of those living immediately in the locality. The public highways are for the use of the great public."

Sir James Whitney seconded the resolution, concurring in all the Liberal leader had said, and section 606 stands.

The clause providing for boards of Control for Hamilton and London, on the people so voting, as published yesterday, was adopted by the House without amendment. The completed bill was then given a third reading, and finally passed.

Greater Powers for Commission.

Hon. Dr. Reaume, Minister of Public Works, presented the following important Government resolution, which was adopted:—

"That it shall be lawful for the T. & N. O. Commission, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, to establish a Land Department to administer town sites and do such other work as shall be designated by the commission; and it shall further be lawful for the commission, with such approval as aforesaid, from time to time, when deemed advisable,

to appoint one of the commissioners to take the charge and oversight of such department, and to pay to such commissioner while in charge of such department such remuneration, in addition to the honorarium aforesaid, as the commission shall see fit, not exceeding at the rate of \$1,500 per annum."

Hon. Dr. Reaume submitted his bill to give the Government power, if deemed advisable, to extend the T. & N. O. Railway from Charlton to Gowganda. The Premier, speaking upon the measure, said it was passed not necessarily as an intention to build, but to give the Government power to act, if conditions in Gowganda so warranted, without calling a special session of the Legislature. Hon. Mr. MacKay concurred in the measure, and it was passed.

Mr. Geo. H. Gooderham secured an amendment to the Toronto bill, permitting the building of the eastern Exhibition entrance car line west of the Old Fort. "We have got together," said Mr. Gooderham, "and I believe we have reached a solution which will be mutually agreeable to the Exhibition authorities and those who would protect the Old Fort." The bill as amended was finally passed.

Special Assessment Committee.

Sir James Whitney moved the appointment of the special committee on the assessment act, which, he said, should meet after the close of the session to go over the revision of the whole act. "This committee," said the Premier, "has been very carefully chosen with a view to have different localities and different interests represented." The committee is as follows: Sir James Whitney, and Messrs. Matheson, McNaught, Johnston, Lucas, Bowyer, Dargavel, Macdiarmid, Hearst, Preston (Durham), Torrance, Nickle, Pharand, Pattinson, Fripp, Clark (Bruce), Eilber, Brewster, Hoyle, Studholme, MacKay (Grey), Reed (Wentworth), Stock, McCart, McEwing, Ross (Middlesex), Proudfoot and Elliott.

Mr. Nickle (Kingston) made another effort to secure his amendment to the Division Courts act, proposed yesterday, but it was voted down.

Mr. Gordon C. Wilson's amendment to the public health act was finally passed as amended, as was the report of the committee on automobile legislation.

Mr. Proudfoot asked that the motion standing in his name with regard to the appointment of a commission to inquire into the position of friendly and benevolent insurance companies and societies doing business in the Province, and also as to cash mutual fire insurance companies, should be withdrawn. He explained that he had had interviews with a number of gentlemen, and apparently the companies were coming into line. The Attorney-General had also prepared a bill dealing with the matter.

A Final Effort.

Once again the Opposition placed themselves on record as being opposed to the land grant to the Canadian Northern Railway. The Hon. A. G. MacKay moved that the House should place itself on record as being opposed to any land being granted as a bonus for railway construction, and that it should be reserved in the interest of the settlers. He, therefore, moved that the bill should be given a six months' hoist.

The amendment was declared to have been lost on the former division.

Mr. McEwing (West Wellington) then took the floor with an amendment to the effect that the grant should not go into operation until the whole question had been submitted to the electors at the next municipal elections, and that the result of the plebiscite so taken should be acted upon.

Mr. Studholme—That is going round the world and getting nowhere.

Hon. Mr. MacKay—A definite promise was given that no land grants would be given. There has been a change in the policy of the Government, and this would simply be asking the opinion of the electors on that change of policy. That could be done in a few weeks.

The resolution was declared to have been lost on division.

Hon. Mr. MacKay submitted still a further amendment. He pointed out that if the value of the land was to be fixed it was in the interests of the settlers that that valuation should be permanent. He, therefore, moved, seconded by Mr. Clarke, that the price of the land should be fixed by December 31 next, and not subsequently changed. He also moved that the

company should not be allowed to sell land except to bona fide intending settlers.

Premier Whitney—That is the intention of the bill.

Mr. S. Clarke (West Northumberland)—Mackenzie & Mann will get the benefit. If you fix the price from time to time it will go up. It is Mackenzie & Mann who will be selling to the settler.

The amendment was also declared to be lost, as were similar motions by the leader of the Opposition opposing the other railway aid bills of the Government.

Policy to Wait.

Hon. A. G. MacKay moved the resolution standing in his name, to the effect that the duties of local master should be performed by the county district or junior Judge without extra salary or fee; that the Judge should receive no extra salary or fee; that the collection of revenue by the sale of law stamps should be discontinued, and the scale of stenographers' fees revised.

The Premier asked that, in view of the fact that under the law reform bill the jurisdiction of County and District Courts had been increased, the motion should be brought up next session, when the effect of the change had been ascertained.

Mr. MacKay withdrew his motion. Mr. McDougal (East Ottawa) also withdrew his resolution limiting appeals from Provincial courts to the Supreme Court of Canada, explaining that he did so because the question was being considered by the Attorneys-General of the Province and of the Dominion.

Government Telephone.

Mr. Lucas, in submitting his resolution that the Legislature should ask for powers to expropriate telephone companies, urged the great necessity in the interest of the public that the telephone should be brought within the reach of all members of the community. His idea was that the Government should own the trunk lines and the municipalities the branch lines. In moving this resolution he believed that he was proposing a step which was in the interests particularly of the farming community.

Mr. T. R. Mayberry (Oxford) endorsed the proposition as a man who had had experience with local telephone systems.

The Liberal leader expressed as his ideal of public utilities of this character the securing of the maximum of control with an efficient and sufficient service. Failing this he favored Government control.

Messrs. Studholme and McNaught expressed themselves in favor of Government-owned telephones.

Sir James Whitney said the resolution asked the Dominion Government to denude itself of powers given to it by the British North America act. He did not believe the Federal authorities would do this. He was, however, glad to have had the matter discussed. On the Premier's suggestion Mr. Lucas withdrew his resolution at the present time.

Mr. Fraser withdrew his bill to amend the workmen's compensation act, and Mr. Fripp his fair wages and hours of labor regulation act. The member for West Ottawa regretted the harsh things that had been said about himself and the bill. He assured the House that it was no political bill, but the sincere expression of his views. The measure was also championed by Mr. Studholme.

The Premier said that the only thing he had to say with regard to the measure was that it was one the Government could not countenance.

The bill was withdrawn.

Restricting Automobiles.

Mr. D. C. Ross moved a final amendment to the automobile bill, to prohibit the use of the machines on country roads during certain hours. He was supported in a vigorous speech by Mr. J. Kohler and others, but the amendment was declared lost on division.

Statute Law Amendments.

The statute law amendment act was