

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1910.

# "HENRY GEORGE MEASURE" KILLED

## Premier Applies the Axe to Single Tax Act.

## NEW ASSESSMENT BILL.

## Important Government Measure Formally Submitted.

### Private Colleges and Seminaries to be Taxed — Income Exemption Increased — Private Members Called Upon to Withdraw Five Bills—Minister of Agriculture Introduces Act to Combat Plant Diseases.

The Government bill to amend the assessment act was formally submitted to the Legislature yesterday by Hon. Mr. Hanna, the Provincial Secretary. It was, the Minister told the House, framed on the lines determined upon by the special legislative committee which met last December, while the Statute Revision Commission had drafted the penalty clauses.

The substantial changes, as then announced, were the taxing of colleges and seminaries conducted solely for private gain, an increase in income exemption from \$1,000 to \$1,200 and from \$700 to \$900, a readjustment of assessment affecting express companies, the making of clubs liable to a business assessment of 25 per cent. and the doing away with special assessment for vacant land in cities.

### "Henry George" Act Killed.

Mr. A. E. Fripp (West Ottawa) launched his "Henry George measure," as it was dubbed by the Premier. The member for Ottawa explained that the bill gave municipalities the right, if they so desired, to put a higher portion of taxation on land than on improvements. It was, he submitted, a popular measure, 270 municipalities having petitioned for it. Both Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton) and Mr. R. J. McCormack (East Lambton) came to the support of the bill, but the Premier was obdurate, and its life was a short one.

Sir James Whitney was pleased to hear the principle of the measure ventilated, but declared the Government was not prepared to accept or act upon it. He was not prepared to say that the present system was unassailable, but he could not assent to the "Henry George" propaganda. The petitioning municipalities were told that they had been unduly influenced by the campaign waged by promoters of the principle, and had passed their resolutions without proper consideration.

### Chilly for Private Bills.

Private members with bills that they fondly imagined might be placed upon the statute books of the Province found the atmosphere decidedly chilly in the House yesterday afternoon. Six measures to amend existing statutes came up for second readings and only two of the half dozen survived. The four cast into the outer darkness were a bill to amend the municipal act, by Dr. E. Jessop (Lincoln), an amendment to the Ontario railway act by C. A. Brower (East Elgin), and two amendments by Mr. H. P. Innes

(North Norfolk), one to the public schools act and the other to the truancy act.

### Dr. Jessop Withdraws Bill.

The bill introduced by the member for Lincoln was framed with the intention of placing under the province of general taxes the cost of constructing pavements between street railway tracks. Dr. Jessop explained that his bill arose out of local conditions in the city of St. Catharines. Hon. Mr. Hanna pointed out that while the bill might serve the immediate purpose intended, it might work a hardship in other cases, and he therefore asked the member for Lincoln to withdraw his bill. Dr. Jessop complied.

Mr. J. Torrance (North Perth) moved the second reading of his bill to amend the pharmacy act by giving enlarged powers to the council of the college. The bill was sent to the Legal Committee. Mr. Brower's act to amend the Ontario railway act was withdrawn. The bill, as explained by the member for East Elgin, was introduced with the purpose of putting a stop to the quarreling between passengers and conductors on the

London & Port Stanley Railway over the payment of fares in cases where passengers boarded the cars between ticket stations. Hon. J. S. Hendrie in asking the member to withdraw the bill said that the Government had the matter under consideration.

### Education Bills Killed.

Mr. H. P. Innes of Norfolk explained his two bills. The bill to amend the public school act provided that Public School Boards in townships should locate the school as near to the centre of the township as was practicable. This, he said, would prevent a majority of ratepayers from voting to place the school at one end of the township, and forcing the children of the minority to walk a long distance. Hon. Mr. Lucas, in the absence of the Minister of Education, applied the axe to the bill. While there was no doubt a grievance in some cases, it would be going too far to make the fixing of the school site as arbitrary a matter as the bill made it. The second bill, which was also withdrawn by Mr. Innes, was to provide for the appointment of truancy officers in townships.

### 'Phone Bill Goes to Committee.

Mr. Eilber's bill to amend the local municipal telephone act was sent on to the Municipal Committee. The bill gives to municipalities the right to use the two by-law system in constructing local telephone systems, the first by-law to secure the assent of the municipality to the project, and a second one, after the work is completed, to allow of debentures being issued to cover the cost of the undertaking.

### Fires in Hotels.

Mr. Hearst (Sault Ste. Marie) introduced a bill for the prevention of accidents by fire in hotels. The bill provides that where a hotelkeeper has failed to provide the fire escapes required by law, and a fire has occurred accompanied by loss of life, and an action has been brought for damages, the onus shall be upon the hotelkeeper to show that the death was not caused by failure to provide the fire escapes.

As the law stands, where any person has been burned to death in a hotel and an action for damages is brought, the plaintiff must show that the lack of fire escapes was the cause of death, and this it is difficult to do, as generally the only person who can give direct evidence on that point is dead.

### To Combat Plant Diseases.

A bill that in substance is an extension of the old act with respect to the San Jose scale was brought down by the Hon. J. S. Duff, Minister of Agriculture. The machinery that was used to combat the San Jose scale will in the future be available in fighting the codling moth, yellows, little peach, black knot, pear psylla and pear blight. It is made an offence to import any plant suffering from any of these diseases. An inspector may be appointed by the Council of a municipality upon the petition of twenty-five fruit-growers who are ratepayers. This is a change from the old act, fifteen ratepayers

being sufficient before.

### About Burlington Beach.

Mr. D. Reed (Wentworth) has given notice that on Thursday he will inquire of the Ministry as follows:— (1) What issues of debentures have been made for park and waterworks purposes, respectively, by the Burlington Beach Commissioners? (2) For what length of time were the debentures issued, and at what rate of interest? (3) Through whom were the debentures sold, and what price was realized by the commissioners? (4) Who were the purchasers in each case? (5) What commission was paid in each case?

### The Speaker's Dinner.