

MANY CLAUSES DEFEATED.

TWO AMENDMENTS TO MUNICIPAL ACT ALLOWED TO PASS.

Drastic Automobile Bill Comes Up Again To-day—City May Regulate Storage of Dangerous Explosives—Taxation Measure Not Approved.

Only two of the five amendments to the municipal act suggested by Mr. W. D. McPherson on behalf of the city of Toronto yesterday morning escaped the political axe of the Municipal Committee of the Legislature. One of these gives municipalities power to prevent the storing of gasoline, gunpowder or other dangerous combustibles where valuable property is endangered, whereas at the present the city can but regulate such storage. The second clause passed allows several city debenture ballots to be printed on one ballot.

A clause extending the franchise to freeholders of property valued at \$200 or upwards in cities of 100,000 or over was defeated because of the anomalous situations which it might engender.

An attempt to have the taxation for certain city improvements charged against those who benefit, instead of against the general taxes, was also thrown out. The city's attempt to set aside certain streets for dwelling houses only also failed utterly.

Another bill to give the city of Toronto power to sanction a new division of wards met with no support.

The bill to allow the city to make power contracts of ten years instead of one was reported. Mr. Brewster of South Brant failed to secure the approval of his bill to allow the city of Brantford to close up a street for the use of a private industry, because the principle was opposed.

The committee adjourned for the day without arriving at any conclusion in regard to Mr. Valentine Stock's drastic bill to regulate the traffic of automobiles. Mr. Stock, however, asked for favorable consideration of the clause requiring drivers to stop within 100 yards of a horse driven by a woman or a child under sixteen years of age. Another clause provided for a fine of \$50 for a first conviction and \$100 for a second, in addition to a cancellation of license.

'PHONE ACT TO BE LAW.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE APPROVES THE DRAFT BILL.

Bell Corporation Enters Protest That the Measure is Ultra Vires—Large Power Vested in Railway and Municipal Board.

With a few minor changes, designed to more definitely determine the authority of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, the Ontario telephone act will become law.

The special Legislative committee, of which Hon. Mr. Lucas is Chairman, appointed to consider the measure submitted to the House by Mr. Sam Charters (Peel), concluded its work yesterday afternoon, and decided to report the bill as revised.

Mr. George Lynch-Staunton, K.C., acting for the Bell Telephone Company, filed a written protest to the effect that certain clauses interfered with a corporation operating under a Dominion charter, and were consequently ultra vires of the Legislature. The particular clause contested was that which provided that no company could enter into a contract with any other company, whether the latter secured its powers from the Legislature "or otherwise."

Hon. Mr. Lucas stated that it had been decided to leave the objectionable clause in the bill. The Government deemed it necessary to the safeguarding and development of the local telephone companies. If it were challenged, the point would probably have to be determined by the Privy Council. The Minister was satisfied, however, that the two boards—the Dominion Railway Commission, which has jurisdiction over the Bell Company, and the Ontario Municipal Board—would come together and effect a reasonable and just arrangement.

Toronto had the best and cheapest telephone service on the continent, according to the expressed view of Mr. F. Dagger of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association. This, in his opinion, resulted from the fact that the city had refused to grant the Bell Company an exclusive franchise at \$20,000 a year.

It was decided by the committee to leave the division of the territory to the Railway and Municipal Board, and a clause was also included under which, if any patron failed to secure the desired connection, the board was given power to order such connection on such terms and conditions as it deemed advisable. No agreement can be made between companies as to territory or rates except with the sanction of the board.

It was decided that the act should come into force thirty days after its third reading.