

McNaught.

The Premier passed immediately to his bill to amend the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board act. One of the clauses granted the powers of the bill in addition to the powers already held by the board, "but shall not interfere with or take away the rights of any municipal corporation under any agreement between the corporation and the company, and unless with the consent of the corporation shall be exercised subject to such rights." The view had been expressed that the clause was too one-sided, and the Premier had decided to eliminate the portion quoted. Hon. Mr. MacKay approved the course taken.

Another New Clause.

A new clause was then submitted by the Premier. It provided that in cities of 100,000 population or over the Railway Board would have power to order a railway company to extend its lines in the district covered by the original agreement. Under this clause, when a railway company refused to extend its lines in portions of the city the board could order the extensions.

Little time was lost in getting down to business. The first two bills, one respecting the lowered capitalization of the Cobalt Lake Mining Company and the other an amendment to the pharmacy act, were passed through committee and given their final readings in short order, but the next one struck a snag. The obstruction was Mr. J. McEwing of Wellington West, and the bill was the Premier's measure respecting the Government House property. Mr. McEwing moved an amendment to leave in clause 7 of the original bill, which calls upon the Government to account for all moneys received and paid out on account of the Government House. The Government had already committed the House to an expenditure of \$225,000 and yet had given no information with regard to what it proposed to do in the matter. He thought it was an opportune time to make some explanation.

"Revolutionist and Socialist."

"I have been charged with being a revolutionist and Socialist because I proposed to abolish the Government House," continued Mr. McEwing, "but in 1904 Mr. Marter, then leader of the Conservative party, moved that the Government House be abolished, and that motion received the hearty support of every member, or nearly every member, on the Opposition side of the House. In 1905 the present leader of the House moved in this Legislature that the Government House be abolished." Mr. McEwing, after contrasting the marked change in the views of the Premier, called upon him to take the House into his confidence respecting his plans. The Premier refused to discuss the point.

"There was a time," he said, "when the Government House ought to have been abolished and the Opposition then was in favor of abolishing it, but that time has gone." He defended his bill, stating that it was merely giving the Government the right to dispose of the property in a business-like manner. Mr. McEwing's amendment was lost, and the bill received its third reading.

Toronto Bill Passed.

The city of Toronto bill passed through committee without an amendment being proposed or any discussion resulting. The bill as finally passed is somewhat different from the measure that went before the Private Bills Committee. The clause respecting the tubes embodies the decision of the sub-committee fixing the responsibility for damages in the construction of the system.
