

HOUSE CONSIDERS REVISION BILLS

Opposition Suggestions Were Accepted.

"FUN" IN THE CAUCUS.

Mr. Champagne Addressed the Members in French.

English-speaking Members Said to Have Objected—House Puts in a Quiet Time in Committee—House of Refuge Act Changed.

The sort of work that is necessary but scarcely interesting was indulged in by the Legislature yesterday—or rather by the Ministers and the Opposition. Several statute revision bills came up for consideration, and while no radical changes were made, the Opposition did useful work on several occasions. Hon. A. G. MacKay's suggested amendment in the house of refuge act, giving the Government inspectors the right to pass on all rules for the punishment of troublesome inmates, was incorporated in the act, and two other measures were allowed to stand in order to consider changes proposed by Mr. Rowell and his supporters.

The first caucus of the Government members was held yesterday morning, and, if reports be true, the dove of peace was absent. Mr. Napoleon Champagne was chosen as Chairman, and it is said that he started out to make his speech of acceptance in his mother tongue. There are a whole lot of members in the Legislature who do not know French from ancient Hebrew, and it is told that objections were raised and that a few "words" were exchanged.

Mr. Champagne, Humorist.

After the caucus the matter was dismissed with the statement that Mr. Champagne was merely having a little fun. "He's a funny fellow, you know," was the way the Government Whip, Dr. Preston, put it.

The talk of the corridors was that the boundary question was touched upon, and that the members were in favor of staving off further discussion of Mr. Rowell's resolution until definite word was received from Ottawa.

Mr. MacKay Scores.

During the consideration of the house of refuge act, changed several days ago, Hon. Mr. MacKay pointed out that the Superintendents and other officials of houses of refuge were allowed a free hand in imposing punishments. He considered that the Government, through the inspectors of the Provincial Secretary's Department, should pass upon all rules and regulations of such institutions. The act was allowed to stand over, and yesterday Hon. Mr. Hanna introduced an amendment embodying Hon. Mr. MacKay's suggestion.

Bills Stands Over.

Two other bills were allowed to stand over for further consideration, upon the suggestion of the Opposition. While the dog tax and sheep protection act, fresh from the statute revision Judges, was under consideration, Hon. Mr. MacKay pointed out that when the section providing for the payment of damage claims for sheep killed by dogs whose owners

were unknown was passed several years ago the township authorities did not become acquainted with its contents in time to provide the special fund required by the act to meet these claims. Considerable confusion resulted, and sheep-owners who had animals in that year have not been able to collect owing to the fact that the Councils did not provide the fund to meet such calls. He suggested that an amendment be inserted providing that these claims be met out of funds now on hand. Mr. W. McDonald of Centre Bruce asked that the clause be allowed to stand in order to give the country members a chance to consider it. This was acceded to.

Widen Inspector's Powers.

Mr. N. W. Rowell urged a change in the fruit pests act that met with the approval of the Minister of Agriculture. The present act provides that the Provincial Inspector may, where a disease has been discovered, instruct the municipal inspector to order the spraying or destruction of the affected plants, and if the owner does not comply, to have them sprayed or destroyed and through the municipal authorities have the cost assessed upon the lot as a special tax. This clause, the Liberal leader pointed out, does not cover municipalities in which local inspectors have not been appointed. He suggested that in such cases the Provincial Inspector should have power to have the disease stamped out. The act was allowed to stand over for an amendment of this nature.

Dogs Cause Damage.

During the discussion of the dog tax and sheep protection act Mr. R. R. Gamey asked for relief for townships adjacent to Indian reserves. The dogs from the reserves ran loose, killed many sheep, and the townships had to pay for the loss with no means of getting the money back. He thought some arrangement might be made with the Indian Department at Ottawa.

The Opposition tried to secure an amendment in the noxious weeds act to give inspectors wider powers in destroying weeds, but the bill went through committee without being changed. The foul brood bill was also put through committee.

Guarantee University Bonds.

The bill to allow the Government to guarantee to the extent of \$300,000 the bonds of the University to cover the amount advanced to the Toronto General Hospital was given a second reading and put through committee, as was Hon. Mr. Hearst's bill to provide for the appointment of extra fire rangers and game wardens in Algonquin Park. The Canadian Northern is now building through the park, and the intention of the bill is to protect it during and after construction. The Government now has an agreement with the company by which the latter bears the cost of the extra wardens and rangers, and provision along this line is made in the bill.

Mr. A. E. Peck of West Peterboro' introduced a bill to make clear the right of a municipality to provide that street watering be paid for by a special rate.

More Opposition Questions.

The Opposition have put a few more questions on the order paper. Mr. Rowell will on Monday ask for information regarding Hon. I. B. Lucas' inquiries into the telephone question. Mr. T. Marshall of Monck will ask for details as to the cost and other matters relating to the new Government House, while Mr. W. Proudfoot of Centre Huron will ask for a return showing the amount spent on the revision of the statutes and its disposition.

Amend Municipal Act.

An amendment to the municipal act will probably be introduced at the present session to permit municipalities to remove dangerous buildings, fences, water tanks, etc. A deputation that called upon the Government several days ago to urge the appointment of a fire marshal suggested that he be given these powers. The Government will hardly go so far as to provide for the appointment of a fire marshal this session, but the proposed bill is a step in the right direction.

It will probably be introduced by Mr. J. A. Ellis of West Ottawa.