

traffic, but the Toronto Railway Company has taken the matter to the Court of Appeal, and this legislation is designed to put an end to the question.

Mr. Charles McRae (Sudbury) introduced a bill extending the power vested in Police Commissioners of cities, towns and villages to keep children off the street during certain hours to police villages.

Hon. Mr. Lucas wants to amend the moving picture act to allow inspection of slides as well as films, and provides for inspection of equipment.

The Attorney-General stated that no order in Council had been passed naming Temiskaming a judicial district, but it would come in due course.

#### Civil Service Reform.

With the view of securing reform in the Provincial civil service Mr. Rowell has given notice of a motion which he will discuss in the House next Tuesday, which reads: "That in the judgment of this House the spoils and patronage systems are inimical to the highest efficiency of the public service and to the best interests of the country; that the public interests demand the immediate creation of a non-partisan Civil Service Commission with ample powers, and that all appointments and promotions in the public service shall be by merit after competitive examination, except in those cases where the conditions of the public service render this impracticable."

## COST OF TIMBER LIMIT IS CAREFULLY GUARDED

### MEMBERS' QUESTIONS RULED OUT BY CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The investigation by the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature into the circumstances of the purchase by the Government of timber limits in Algonquin Park from the Munn Lumber Company for \$290,000, which was continued yesterday, has so far resulted in showing that the Government is apparently not anxious that all the facts should not be made public property.

When asked by Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) what price the Munn Company had paid for the limits when they bought them two years previously from the St. Anthony Lumber Company, Mr. A. E. Munn, who had been called before the committee, was assured by Mr. G. H. Ferguson, Chairman of the committee, that he need not answer unless he wished. Mr. Munn said that he did not wish to give the information, as it was a private matter. Mr. Elliott appealed to the committee against the Chairman's ruling, but the ruling was sustained.

Mr. Elliott said he had been informed that the Munn Lumber Company had paid only \$160,000 for the limit, and asked Mr. Munn if he had any comment to make on this information. Mr. Ferguson again ruled that the question need not be answered.

Mr. Munn said that they cut altogether on the timber limit about 15,000,000 feet, on which they made an average profit of about \$3 per thousand.

"No private concern," said Mr. Munn, "could have bought that limit from us at that price."

"It was a matter of sentiment," queried Mr. Sam Clarke (East Northumberland), "and not of dollars and cents, then?"

Mr. Munn—No, it was a commercial transaction.

Mr. Clarke—For what reason, then, did you favor the Government?

Mr. Munn—The Government approached us, and the original price we asked was almost double what we got. We wanted \$600,000, and we thought it was worth that, but the Minister drove us a pretty hard bargain, and the Government got the best of the deal.

Mr. Munn said that they would be

willing to take the limit back at what the Government paid for it with interest.

At Mr. Elliott's request, Mr. E. C. Whitney and Mr. A. E. Briggs, President and Secretary of the St. Anthony Lumber Company, will be called to the next meeting of the committee. They will be asked what sum they received for this limit when they sold it to the Munn Company.

Dr. A. H. U. Colquhoun, Deputy Minister of Education, was examined regarding an item of \$25,481 for salaries in the department. Questioned by Mr. Elliott, Dr. Colquhoun admitted that Dr. Merchant's report on the bilingual schools had revealed many violations of the department's regulations, of which the department did not know the existence. He said, however, that Dr. Merchant had not had time to go the whole round of

## CITY MAY NOT TAKE OVER SUBURBAN LINE

### RAILWAY COMMITTEE OF LEGISLATURE AGAIN DECIDES AGAINST TORONTO.

The city of Toronto is certainly not a pampered favorite of the Ontario Legislature. A measure to empower the city to take over part of the Toronto Suburban Railway which it is proposed to be built within the city limits was lost in the Railway Committee yesterday. A bill authorizing extensions to the Toronto Suburban Railway to Guelph, Berlin, Hamilton, Niagara Falls, and other points, with power to expropriate land, was passed without amendment.

According to the plans submitted, the company will enter the city of Toronto from the northwest to a point on the Davenport road. Mr. W. K. McNaught (North Toronto) introduced an amendment by which the city would be empowered to take over the half-mile of this line within the limits of the city, and to take over such parts of electric railways as might in future come within the extended boundaries of the city.

Mr. H. L. Drayton, Corporation Counsel, presented the case for the city, and pointed out that at the end of nine years, when the franchise of the Toronto Railway should expire, the city wanted to be able to control all the electric lines within its boundaries. It did not want a lot of unexpired franchises over which it would have no control. It was the ultimate aim to have all the radials converge at a central station down town.

Mr. Allan Royce, representing the Toronto Suburban Railway, urged that if one little end of the railway were taken over by the city the rest of it would be useless. They had their own private right of way coming into the city and did not propose to run along any streets.

The discussion assumed a white heat at times, nearly every member of the committee having a word to say. When it came to a vote Messrs. Crawford, McNaught, Owens and Whitesides, the Toronto members, were supported by Messrs Norman (Princ Edward), Thompson (Peterboro'), and Studholme (East Hamilton). An equal number, viz. seven, were opposed to the amendment, which made a tie vote. The amendment was declared lost because there was not a majority in favor of it.

The bill was then taken up clause by clause and reported without further discussion.

A bill to incorporate the Forest Hill Electric Railway, which was seeking entrance to Toronto, was thrown out by the committee because there was no one present to support it, while everybody in the northern section of the city seemed opposed to it.

Another bill was reported giving the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board enlarged jurisdiction in investigating complaints.

A bill to increase the capital of the Niagara Falls, Welland & Dunnville Electric Railway Company from \$200,000 to \$500,000, and giving them power to generate and dispose of electric power, was also reported without discussion.