

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Notes of Proceedings in the Local Parliament.

SOME NEW BILLS.

Andrew Pattullo, M.P.P., has introduced a bill, which, if passed, will mean a radical change in Councils. It provides that in towns of 7,000 the Councils shall consist of a mayor and ten councillors; in towns of over 5,000 and not more than 7,000, a reeve and eight councillors; in towns of 3,000 and not exceeding 5,000, a reeve and six councillors; in towns of 3,000 a mayor and four councillors; in incorporated villages there shall be a reeve and four councillors; and in townships a reeve and four councillors—all to be elected by general vote. The bill further provides that the mayor of every town and reeve of every village and township shall be elected in alternate years, the candidates being elected in the next election to hold office until 1902. The bill also sets forth that one-half of each Council shall retire each year. Those retiring the first year will be those receiving the smallest number of votes. In case more than one-half in number of the councillors of any such town or of any township or village are returned by acclamation at the municipal election to be held for the year, 1900, one-half in number shall retire at the municipal election for the year 1901, and the members who shall so retire shall be determined by lot cast by the clerk of the corporation in open Council, not later than the first day of December, 1899.

Mr. Tucker introduced a bill which provides that every official who canvasses, speaks or takes any part in elections shall be fined \$200 and costs on conviction, or six months in prison. The official will lose his position and will not be able to accept any other Government position.

Mr. Foy introduced a bill to give municipal franchises to persons rated at \$400 personal property on the last revised assessment roll, who have lived continuously in the municipality. The bill also repeals the clause in the Municipal Act which enables the Council to elect the Mayor of a city where the office becomes vacant after the first day of July of any year, and likewise amends the provision respecting the Board of Control by providing for the election of four aldermen to the Board instead of three, by providing for the election of members of the Board by open vote instead of by ballot, and by depriving the Mayor of his second vote. The bill provides for the removing of names off petitions in connection with local improvements without the consent of the Council or the committee dealing with it.

AN INSURANCE COMPANY.

By a private bill introduced by Mr. Marter, Joseph J. Follett, Wm. East, Thomas Bell, William Fairbanks and Martin Newman Merry, of the city of Toronto, ask incorporation as a company to be called the "Mutual Life Insurance Company," for the purpose of carrying on a general insurance business on the mutual principle. The company ask power to effect contracts of life insurance on the mutual principle with any person or corporation on life or lives or on or against any event loss or risk in any manner on life or lives, grant, sell, or purchase annuities, grant endowments, purchase contingent rights, revisions or remainders, and generally enter into any transaction dependent as are usually transacted by life insurance companies, including re-insurance. The whole of the net profits of the company shall belong exclusively to the holders of participating policies, and shall be divided among them in such proportions and at such times as the directors may appoint.

UNIFORMITY AIMED AT.

Mr. Ross introduced a bill to amend the Public Libraries Act. The object is to make the calendar year and the financial year for Public Libraries uniform. In the case of free libraries the calendar year now forms the financial year, while in other libraries the financial year extends from 1st of May to 30th of April.

MR. WARDELL'S BILL.

Mr. Wardell moved the second reading of his bill amending the Assessment Act, providing that local judges be paid \$5 per day when sitting on assessment appeals. Under the present law only the judges from other districts are paid. The bill will be considered by the Municipal Committee. Mr. Wardell also moved the second reading of his bill that the law be changed that all cities may have the right to pay their police commissioners.

VETERINARY SURGEONS.

Mr. German has presented a bill asking for an amendment to the Act of Incorporation of the Ontario Veterinary Association. The new clause which the association want inserted reads as follows: "It shall not be lawful for any person not registered to practice veterinary medicine or surgery, or to perform any surgical oper-

ation on animals for hire, gain or hope of reward. And if any person not registered pursuant to this act, for hire, gain or hope of reward, practices or professes to practice veterinary medicine or surgery, or advertises to give advice in veterinary medicine or surgery, he shall upon summary conviction therefore before any Justice of the Peace, for each and every such offence, pay a penalty not exceeding twenty-five dollars nor less than five dollars."

CONFIRMATION OF BY-LAWS.

The town of Prescott asks that an Act be passed to confirm and legalize a by-law passed on September 5th, 1898, to raise the sum of \$100,000 for the construction of a system of water-works and sewers in Prescott. They further want power to issue debentures to the extent of \$100,000 to do the work. These debentures are to be made payable in forty annual instalments, with interest at 4 per cent. Oshawa wants to have a new water-works system, and by a bill seeks power to construct the same and issue debentures. The by-law authorizing this has been passed by a majority of 67 out of a total of 481 votes. The town wishes to issue debentures to extend over a period of 40 years. Doubts also have been expressed as to the legality of the division of the sum into two parts for water-works and sewers respectively, and otherwise it is desirable to set the same at rest.

BINDER TWINE.

Hon. E. J. Davis, replied to Mr. Marter's question as to how much binder twine had been made at the Central Prison during the currency of the present contract. The Provincial Secretary said that during the year 1895-96 there was manufactured 962,000 pounds; in 1896-7, 1,518,000 pounds. In 1898 there was no twine made, as a result of the fire at the prison. The contractors paid 82 1/2 cents per hundred pounds for labour and the use of machinery.

ROPE AGREEMENT.

Mr. Davis laid on the table the agreement between the Government and Cordage Company for the manufacture of all kinds of rope at the Central Prison up to two inches in diameter. It provides that the company shall purchase all the machinery, subject to approval by the Government. The company is to be reimbursed by allowances from the amount, due from labour at the prison over an average of 2 1/2 tons output each day. The contractors have to pay half the salary of the engineer, and are bound to manufacture after March 1st, four tons of binder twine per day. The agreement is to be in force until 1905.

MUNICIPAL AUDITS.

The annual report of the Provincial Municipal Auditor was placed on the table. During 1898 the deficits in municipal accounts amounted to \$12,000, while in 1897 they amounted to \$100,000. The decrease was attributed to the new system of book-keeping and auditing which the Government put in force. The new system of book-keeping has been found to be highly appreciated and gave promise of being a great success. Some municipalities were anxious for the appointment of Government auditors.

During the past year audits were made at South Marysburg Township, where a deficit of \$1,305.55 was found, but has been made up at Ingersoll, at Flos, at Niagara, Niagara Falls, West Zorra, North Colchester and Orillia. At the latter place a deficit of \$5,222.74 was found.

THEY WANTED A GRANT.

The deputation that waited on Hon. Messrs. Ross, Dryden and Davis regarding aid for a railway from a point on the C. P. R. north of Lake Superior to Moose Factory on James Bay, stated the length of the proposed line would be a little over 200 miles and asked for a land and cash subsidy equal to that granted the Rainy River Railway, of \$3,200 per mile. It is expected then to have communication with Chesterfield Inlet on the north-west coast of the Hudson bay, and to get the trade of the Klondike gold regions. Members of the deputation spoke, showing the great amount of trade such a railway would make. They referred to the great fisheries of Hudson and James bays, and the value of the whole industry, and of the millions of acres of land through which the railway would run. All were sure that the construction of such a railway would be a great advantage to Toronto. C. T. Harvey, the engineer, explained that by such a railway there would be a route to the Klondike by way of Ontario. In dismissing the deputation, Hon. Mr. Ross thanked them and promised to lay the matter before the Government.

IN A NEW DISTRICT.

The Thessalon & Grand Portage Railway Company seek incorporation in a private bill. They set forth that the construction of a line as proposed would open up a portion of the country apparently rich in minerals, and would conduce to the general advantage of the province. The line as proposed is to run from Thessalon, in the westerly direction, thence in a north-westerly direction, passing through the townships of Thessalon, Kirkwood, Bridgland, Wells and Gould, to a point known as the Grand Portage, on the Mississauga River, in the township of Gould, and thence in a northerly direction through the township of Gould and the unorganized district a distance of about 30 miles, with such diversions or divergences as may be necessary or convenient. They ask power to construct cross lines to extend not more than 21 miles in an easterly or westerly direction. The line is to be operated by either steam or electricity.

ANOTHER RAILWAY.

In a private bill introduced by Dr. Pyne, the member for East Toronto, Hon. Geo. A. Cox, Senator, W. H. Brouse, C. J. Campbell, J. W. Flavell, J. J. Gartshore, W. H. Lockhart Gordon, James Graham, John Koskin, J. S. Lockie, H. Mooney, Eugene O'Keefe and Elias Rogers ask incorporation under the name of "The Haliburton, Whitney and Mattawa Railway Com-

pany," for the purpose of constructing and operating a line of railway from or near the village of Haliburton, Haliburton county, to a point crossing the Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway at the village of Whitney, and from there to Mattawa on the Ottawa River, with power to operate vessels on the Ottawa River in connection with the railway. The capital stock of the company is to be \$1,000,000, with power to increase it. When \$35,000 of the stock has been subscribed the directors shall be elected. The bill provides for the receiving of aid from Governments and municipalities.

FOR AN OPEN VOTE.

Mr. Pattullo, M. P. P., has introduced a bill to prohibit the voting by ballot in municipal councils. It provides that whenever a division is taken in a municipal council either upon the appointment of an officer of the corporation, the election of the Council, or upon a by-law, resolution or other purpose, each member of the Council present voting shall announce his vote upon the question openly and individually in the Council, and the clerk shall record the same; and no vote shall be taken by ballot or by any other method of secret voting in any municipal Council, and every vote so taken shall be void of all effect.

ELECTRIC RAILWAY BONDS.

Mr. Dryden has given notice of a bill to amend the Street Railway Act. The provisions of the Act introduced some years ago by Mr. Bronson in regard to electric railway bonds are regarded as too strict, and the present measure, it is understood, will relax them somewhat.

Mr. Graham, introduced a bill providing that the Councils of townships may pass by-laws for establishing fire limits in incorporating villages. Mr. McLaughlin brought in a bill for the purpose of exempting farming implements and vehicles, hay, grain and other farm products, the property of the owner or tenants of farms, from taxation.

LAST SEASON'S CUT OF LOGS.

Hon. J. M. Gibson laid on the table a return of the cut of logs in 1897-98 on the limits of the Georgian Bay, Lake Huron, and Lake Superior districts, and which were driven to either of these lakes—Pieces, 3,887,120; feet, 308,768,812; left in the woods, 6,932,968; exported, 211,153,412 feet; unexported, 106,544,977 feet.

SENT ON PUBLIC WORKS.

The report of the Public Works Department was issued. The sum of \$82,494 was expended on maintenance account, for fuel, gas, water, repairs, etc. The sum of \$115,889 was expended on capital account for public buildings and public works. The total sum expended on public works since Confederation amounts to \$10,754,414. The railway statement shows that there were 1,447 1/2 miles of railway, before Confederation, 5,243 built since, and 288 miles under construction now.

ICE-BOAT ACCIDENT.

William Holtham, a Young Hamilton Lad Receives Fatal Injuries.

A despatch from Hamilton says:—A fatal ice-boat accident occurred about six o'clock on Saturday afternoon on the bay, a short distance from the foot of Wellington street. William Holtham, a lad, and several companions were taking a party of men on a small ice-boat to the smelting works. A larger ice-boat handled by Ernest Laus, was coming towards the shore, and the man at the tiller did not see the smaller boat. The result was that the two boats came together with a terrific crash. Several of the young men were thrown off with great force. Holtham was unconscious when he was picked up, having a nasty cut on the head and a wound on the body; He was taken to his home, 141 Wood street east, and was attended by Dr. Mackelcan, but he died within an hour, never regaining consciousness. The deceased was a son of George Holtham, and was about sixteen years of age. Ernest Laus, D. Wart, Jr., and James Ecclestone, who were on the boats, received painful injuries. Coroner Phelps investigated the accident, and decided that an inquest was unnecessary.

HE BELIEVES IN SUICIDE.

New York Magistrate Startles the Court Attendants.

A despatch from New York says:—When a 16-year-old boy, charged with attempting to take his own life, was arraigned before Magistrate Wentworth in Harlem Police Court on Tuesday, the magistrate started the court attendants and the few spectators by declaring himself in favour of suicide. "This is a sad case," said the magistrate, "and I think everyone has a right to shuffle off when he has nothing in life left for him. When I get so that there is nothing left in life for me, I think that is what I shall do." The magistrate then turned the boy over to his sister who took him home with her. When asked later if he thought suicide justifiable, Magistrate Wentworth said:—"That is not the question. I believe in suicide. That is all."

At the recent ball given by the Paris councillors to their political supporters, the 4,000 guests staid the silver spoons, chairs, champagne and a thousand miscellaneous articles. The ball is an annual gathering of the lowest elements of the French capital.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's fortune is estimated at something a good deal over £1,000,000.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD.

Prices of Grain, Cattle, Cheese, &c. in the Leading Markets. LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Toronto, Feb. 28.—Here are some of to-day's sales:—

Two loads of shipping cattle, averaging 1,280 lbs., sold at \$4.75 per cwt. A load of 22 butcher cattle, averaging 1,040 lbs., sold at 4 1-8c per pound. A lot of 18 butcher cattle, averaging 930 lbs., sold at \$3.90 per cwt. Two loads of butcher cattle, averaging 1,030 lbs., sold at \$3.50 per cwt.; and ten dollars added on the deal.

Three prime steers, averaging 1,360 lbs., sold at 5c per pound. Twelve mixed cows and heifers, averaging 1,050 lbs., sold at 3 1-8c per pound, and five dollars back.

Thirteen mixed cattle, averaging 960 lbs., sold at 3 1-4c per pound. Good choice veals are badly wanted, and will sell at from \$5 to \$8 each; common and inferior are worth from \$2.50 to \$4.50 each.

Lambs to-day were weaker, and tomorrow from 4 1-4 to 4 1-2c per pound is all that can be depended on, and to fetch the latter figure they must be choice.

Sheep are unchanged at 3 1-4c per pound.

Bucks are not fetching more than from 2 1-2 to 2 3-4c per pound. As we indicated in last Tuesday's report would probably be the case, hogs are weaker.

The best price paid to-day for "singers" was \$4.37 1-2 per cwt. Light hogs are selling at nothing over \$4 per cwt.

For thick fat hogs the quotations are from \$3.60 to \$3.75 per cwt. Sows sell at 3c per pound, not more. Stags are fetching only 2c per pound.

The market is weak, and the outlook is for still lower figures. Following is the range of current quotations:—

Cattle. Shipping, per cwt. . . . \$ 4.25 \$ 4.75 Butcher, choice, do. . . . 3.50 4.12 1-2 Butcher, med. to good 3.12 1-2 3.50 Butcher, inferior. . . . 2.75 3.00

Sheep and Lambs. Ewes, per cwt. . . . 3.25 3.30 Lambs, per cwt. . . . 4.25 4.50 Bucks, per cwt. . . . 3.50 2.75

Milkers and Calves. Cows, each 25.00 45.00 Calves, each 2.00 6.00

Hogs. Choice hogs, per cwt. . . . 4.25 4.37 1-2 Light hogs, per cwt. . . . 4.00 4.00 Heavy hogs, per cwt. . . . 3.60 3.75

BREADSTUFFS, ETC. Wheat.—The market was quiet and steady here to-day. Red wheat was sold at 69c. high freights, and white at 70c. Spring wheat was quoted at 71c and 69c; No. 1 Manitoba hard, was held at 83 1-2c, North Bay; and No. 1 Northern, at 80 1-2c; No. 1 hard, g.t., via Sarnia tunnel, was quoted at 85c.

Flour—Steady but dull; exporters quote \$3 for straight roller, in wood, middle freights. Sales of straight for local account, were made at \$3.10, single cars.

Meal—Steady. Car lots of rolled oats, in bags, on track here, are quoted at \$3.60 per bbl; and in bbls. at \$3.70.

Peas—Continue steady. Car lots, north and west, sold at 66c; and east at 67c.

DAIRY PRODUCE. Butter—Steady movement. The receipts fair. The market is in good shape for all choice dairy butter. The quotations are as follows:—Dairy tub, poor to medium, 11 to 12c; choice, 14 to 15c; large rolls, 15 to 16c; small dairy, lb. prints, about 16c; creamery, tubs and boxes, 19 to 20c; lbs., 20 to 21c, with an occasional 22c for select packages.

Cheese—Market in good shape. Choice stock sells at from 9 3-4 to 10 1-2c.

EGGS.—No increase in the delivery of stock to-day from outside, and the market is pretty well cleaned up. New laid sold firm at 20 to 21c. Held fresh and lined sell at 15 to 16c.

Potatoes.—The market is steady and demand good. Offerings ample. Car lots, on track, are quoted at about 60 to 65c per bag; dealers sell out of store at 65 to 70c; farmers' loads sell at around 60 to 70c.

Poultry—Quiet. Too much cold stored stock offering. Choice is held firm. Quotations are:—Chickens, per pair, 25 to 40c; ducks, 40 to 60c; geese, per lb., 6 to 7c; turkeys, per lb., 9 to 12c.

Beans—Dull. Choice hand-picked beans sell at \$1.10 to \$1.25; and common at 60 to 70c per bush. Dried apples—Dealers pay 5 to 5 1-2c for dried stock, delivered here, and small lots resell at 5 1-2 to 5 3-4c; evaporated, 8 to 9c, in small lots.

Honey—Round lots of choice, delivered here, will bring about 5 1-2 to 6c; dealers quote from 6 to 7c, per lb. for 10 to 60-lb. tins, and in comb at around \$1.25 to \$1.50 per dozen sections.

Baled hay—Quiet and unchanged. Strictly choice, car lots, is quoted at \$6.50 to \$7.50 per ton; and No. 2 at \$6.

Straw—Easy. Sales light. Car lots are quoted at \$4 to \$4.50, on track. Hop—Brewers well supplied. Dealers here sell at 18 to 20c; and are paying holders, outside, about 18c.

DRESSED HOGS AND PROVISIONS. The dressed hog market is steady.

Deliveries ample. On the street farmers' loads are quoted at around \$5.15 for mixed lots. A few car lots changed hands on track at \$5, mixed weights, delivered; and a fraction better for select. The market for pork products is easy.

Quotations are as follows:—Dry salted shoulders, 7c; long clear bacon, car lots, 7c; ton lots and case lots, 7 1-4 to 7 1-2c; and backs, 8 to 8 1-2c.

Buffalo, Feb. 28.—Spring wheat—Better demand, firm; No. 1 hard, 84c; No. 1 Northern, 81c; Winter wheat—Good enquiry; No. 1 white, 77c; No. 2 red, 77 1-2c. Corn—Strong; good demand; No. 2 yellow, 38 1-2c; No. 3 yellow, 37 1-2 to 37 3-4c; No. 3 corn, 37 1-4 to 37 1-2c; No. 4 corn, 36 1-2c. Oats—Steady; offerings light; No. 2 white, 34 1-2c; No. 3 white, 33 1-2 to 33 3-4c; No. 4 white, 33 1-2 to 32 3-4c. Barley—Unchanged; sales at 52 to 53c. Rye—Dull; No. 2, in store, 65c. Flour—Barley steady.

Detroit, Feb. 28.—Wheat closed; No. 1 white, cash, 73 1-4c; No. 2 red, cash, 73 3-4c; May, 75 7-8c.

Toledo, Feb. 28.—Wheat—No. 2, cash, 74 1-2c; No. 3 yellow, 37 1-2 to 37 3-4c; No. 3 corn, 37 1-4 to 37 1-2c; No. 4 corn, 36 1-2c. Oats—Steady; offerings light; No. 2 white, 34 1-2c; No. 3 white, 33 1-2 to 33 3-4c; No. 4 white, 33 1-2 to 32 3-4c. Barley—Unchanged; sales at 52 to 53c. Rye—Dull; No. 2, in store, 65c. Flour—Barley steady.

Milwaukee, Feb. 28.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, 73 1-2c; No. 2 do., 71 to 72c. Rye—No. 2, 57 1-2c; Barley—No. 2, 50c; sample, 45 3-4 to 49 1-2c.

Minneapolis, Feb. 28.—Wheat—February, 70 3-4c; May, 70 7-8 to 71c; July, 71 1-4 to 71 3-4c; on track, No. 1 hard, 71 3-4c; No. 1 Northern, 70 3-4c; No. 2 Northern, 68 3-4c.

Duluth, Feb. 28.—Wheat—No. 2, hard, cash, 73 3-4c; February, 71 3-4c; May, 74 1-4c; July, 74 3-4c; No. 1 Northern, cash, 69 3-4c; No. 2 Northern, 66 1-4c bid.

DROUGHT IN AUSTRALIA.

Cattle Are Dying by Hundreds From Starvation.

A despatch from Vancouver, B.C., says:—Australian advices received by steamer on Thursday say that the terrible devastating drought is widespread in Australia. The ruin is appalling. Cattle are starving to death by hundreds. An attempt to take cattle into sections where hay is plentiful proved unavailing. A train load of cattle, starting out from one station alive, on arrival at a station one hundred miles further on was filled with dead carcasses.

The authorities are at their wits' end devising some means of disposing of these cattle before they spread contagion in the process of decomposition. The only means yet devised is to pile them in huge heaps and build fires around them after saturating them with coal oil.

Distressed landowners are meeting throughout the Antipodes, and in cases of Government land being occupied are asking for the remission of rent for one year, a request which is readily granted.

At these meetings hundreds of those present said that for three years they had not made a dollar. Millions of acres of crops, and millions of sheep, have been destroyed by the drought. To add to the distress, bush fires are raging over thousands of miles of territory, and farmers have had to fly for their lives to the nearest towns.

HE MUST MEND HIS HABITS.

British Colonial Secretary Recovering From First Serious Illness.

A despatch from London says:—Colonial Secretary Chamberlain is recovering from the first serious illness of his life. He ventured to the House of Commons last week when only partly recovered from the gout attack caught the grip, and his condition caused considerable anxiety to his family. He hopes to be out of bed this week.

The doctors have ordered him to completely change his mode of life. He has been smoking a dozen strong cigars a day, taking no exercise, and working incessantly. He is sixty-two years old now, and must adopt a rational regime if he is to have health robust enough to enable him to continue his political career.

It is stated that he has promised to change his ways, as life would be of no value to him if he were prevented from devoting himself strenuously to politics, beyond which he has no ambition and no concern.

KIPLING SERIOUSLY ILL.

Author in New York Down With Inflammation of the Lung.

A despatch from New York says:—Rudyard Kipling is seriously ill in this city at the Hotel Grenoble. His doctors, however, hope that the distinguished author, with his strong constitution, will be able to pull through at right. The following bulletin was issued at 2 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon by his physicians:—"Mr. Kipling has an inflammation of the right lung. This produces the usual fever. There are at present no complications."

Mrs. Kipling said that her husband was apparently perfectly well until Monday evening, when he went out to dinner and came home complaining of cold and fever.

GOLD AT LAKE BENNETT.

Inspector Moodie Reports the First Find.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—A despatch received by the Comptroller of the Mounted Police, Mr. Fred. Whitla, from Inspector Moodie at Lake Bennett, announces that gold has been discovered in a creek on the east side flowing into that body of water. This is the first find of the precious metal around Lake Bennett, and goes to show how extensive must be the auriferous areas.