

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Notes of Proceedings in the Local Parliament.

RAISING THE REVENUE.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt's scheme for the raising of the revenues consists of two measures, one a bill respecting breweries, distilleries and liquor licenses, the other known broadly as an act to supplement the revenues of the province. The amount which these measures will draw to the Provincial Treasury is something like \$300,000, a hundred thousand from the liquor people, the other two hundred thousand borne by corporations not notorious for their poverty.

Wholesale licenses in 1884 stood at the respectable figure of \$150. They were raised \$225 and later to \$250. Tavern licenses in large cities in turn were \$100, \$160 and \$250. In towns, \$80, \$100, \$150; villages, \$60, \$80; \$120; townships, \$60, \$72, \$87. The municipalities may go on increasing license fees if they choose. The increases to be gathered in under the auspices of Richard Harcourt are for the needs of the Ontario Government alone. No right which the municipalities have exercised is taken away.

In cities with a population of over 150,000 the wholesale license fee shall be increased by \$200. In cities between 40,000 and 100,000, there are four of them, the increase is \$150, and in other cities, seven in all, an increase of \$100. For tavern and shop licenses in cities of 150,000 and up the price is just \$150 higher than before, in cities between 40 and 150 thousand \$100 extra, and in all other cities \$100 is added to the original sum. Three railway saloons are each to pay additional license fees of \$150 each.

All told, Ontario has 67 breweries and distilleries. Thirty-six of smaller concerns are to be exempt, while the remaining 39 contribute according to the amount of their investment. The breweries will pay from \$160 to \$1,000, the distilleries, two small, four medium, and two very large, from \$750 to \$4,000 extra. If Harcourt's calculations are anywhere near the mark the total revenue from distillers will be \$24,000 from brewers, \$16,000; from other licenses \$65,000, a total of \$110,000.

The license schedule divides the license holders into three classes. 1. over 150,000, 2. between 40 and 150 thousand, 3. under 40,000. Here is the schedule:—

Wholesale.	
Present fees.	Proposed fees.
First-class	\$250
Second class	250
Third-class	250
Tavern and Shop.	
First-class	\$150
Second-class	150
Third-class	150
Brewers.	
Under \$10,000	\$250
" 20,000	400
" 40,000	500
" 75,000	750
" 100,000	1,000
Over 100,000	1,500
Distillers.	
\$ 50,000 and less	\$1,000
100,000 and less	3,000
150,000 and less	4,000
Over \$150,000	5,000

The means by which the Government proposes to add \$200,000 to its revenues appear in the following schedule:—

Banks—One-tenth of 1 per cent on capital stock up to \$2,000,000, 25¢ for every \$100,000 above \$2,000,000 and not exceeding \$6,000,000 and \$15 per \$100,000 above that sum; also an additional tax of \$100 for each head office and \$25 for each branch office or agency.

Life insurance—One per cent. on the gross premiums received for business within the province of every company transacting business within the province, and one-half of 1 per cent. on every other insurance company.

Loan companies—With fixed or permanent paid-up capital \$65 or over \$100,000.

With terminating or withdrawn capital between \$100,000 and \$200,000 a tax of \$50, from \$200,000 to \$500,000 a tax of \$75, from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 a tax of \$100, and \$50 for each additional million.

Trust companies—One-third of one per cent. on paid up capital stock.

Railway companies—Fifteen dollars per mile for every mile of railway operated which receives provincial subsidy.

Street railways—Every street railway operating in any city \$20 per mile for each mile of track when the mileage does not exceed 15 miles in the city, \$35 per mile for each mile between 15 and 25 miles, \$45 for each mile between 25 and 50 miles, and \$60 for each mile in excess of 50 miles.

Telegraphs—One-fourth of one per cent. upon the paid-up capital stock, and one-tenth of 1 per cent. where the line is worked or operated by others.

Companies that work or operate lines owned by others to pay 1 per cent. upon the paid-up capital.

Telephones—One-sixth of one per cent. upon the paid up capital.

Natural gas companies—Where producing natural gas, \$5,000; where transmitting as well as producing, \$2,000; where transmitting or transporting, \$2,500.

Express companies (2)—\$3,000 each.

Sleeping car companies (2)—\$3,000 each.

All told, Mr. Harcourt estimates the revenue which the new bill will pull in as follows: Telegraph companies, something under \$7,000; telephones, \$6,000; express companies, \$6,000; natural gas companies, \$15,000; trust companies, \$3,000; life insurance companies, \$17,000; loan companies, permanent capital, \$24,000; street railways, terminating, \$3,000; street railways, \$13,000; railways receiving provincial aid, \$20,000; and from the license bill, approximately, \$100,000.

A chartered bank with a capital of \$2,000,000 and no more will pay the sum of \$2,000. But there is one bank in the province with a paid-up capital of \$6,000,000, and another with a paid-up capital of \$12,000,000. A graduated tax has therefore been thought preferable, and the bill provides that an additional tax of \$25 shall be levied upon every \$100,000, in excess of \$2,000,000 and not exceeding \$6,000,000, and \$15 for every \$100,000 or fraction thereof, of unpaid stock over \$6,000,000. In addition the bank will be required to pay \$100 for every head office and \$25 for each additional branch office transacting business in the province.

No distinction has been made between foreign and domestic companies, following the example of every other British possession.

THE CANADIAN SENATE.

Premier Hardy has given notice of an important motion. Fault is found with the provisions of the British North America Act so far as they relate to the powers and constitution of the Canadian Senate. There should be, the motion goes on, an amendment to the act, substantially providing that in case of disagreement between the House of Commons and the Senate, the point of difference shall be decided by a majority of the members of the two Houses present and voting in a joint meeting. Further, it is proposed that the British North America Act should be so amended as to provide that the appointment of Senators should be for a limited term of years, and not for life, as at present.

BILL ABOUT ALIENS.

Mr. T. A. Wardell, of Wentworth, has an important bill relating to the employment of aliens. It provides that any company securing a charter from the Ontario Government, whether it be for building of railways or canals, a company shall not be able to employ aliens on any work whatever. Mr. Wardell feels that Canadians are not being well treated and that people of other countries are too well treated, and has drawn up the bill to give the Canadians any advantage of work.

TAX EXEMPTIONS BILL.

Andrew Pattullo, M.P.P., has given notice of a bill to amend the Municipal Act regarding tax exemptions. The bill asks that section 40 of the Municipal Act, relating to municipalities granting tax exemptions to manufacturing establishments without first coming to the Legislature for the power. Mr. Pattullo first introduced a bill, then presented resolution to secure the sense of the House on the question. With the present bill, Mr. Pattullo expects to take away all the powers of municipalities in regard to exemptions. The principal clause of the bill reads: "Every municipal council shall by a two-thirds vote of the members thereof, have the power of exempting any manufacturing establishment or any water works or water company, in whole or in part, from taxation for any period not longer than ten years, and to renew the exemptions for a further period not exceeding ten years."

MINING LAW CHANGES.

James Conmee, M.P.P., while avowing Ontario's mining laws the best in the world, has a pair of improvements to suggest. He has incorporated these in a bill which the Legislature will soon be asked to consider. As the law stands, mining lands may be bought for \$1 an acre, or rented for 25 cents an acre. This 25 cents rental Mr. Conmee believes too high. The present law also makes certain inducements to miners making discoveries 10 miles from any mine already in operation. The bill lessens this distance.

TO TEACH AGRICULTURE.

The Minister of Education moved the second reading of his bill to improve the Schools Act. Speaking on the subject of agricultural instruction which was provided for in this bill, he said that it was the intention of the Government in time to drop some other subject and make agricultural instruction compulsory. They had been trying to prepare teachers in agriculture by teaching it in the Normal school; they had also secured a text-book, which unfortunately proved too technical. The new Act was proposed as a lever in the direction of wider instruction, and to encourage teachers to inform themselves. Travelling lecturers in agriculture would be appointed to cover a group of schools and impart scientific knowledge of the subject. He hoped that this would have the effect of keeping the boys at school. At present boys left school at 13 or 14. If they could be retained a year or two longer they would gain in knowledge to a vast extent. He wanted to try the experiment of bringing children to school in omnibuses in Algoma and the Island of Manitoulin, a scheme which had been tried with success in certain parts of the United States where the distances were long. It was economical, since it prevented the multiplication of schools where the classes were not large enough to warrant it. It was terrible to think of little children in Algoma walking three or four miles to school through the deep snow and in the biting cold. He therefore proposed to appoint a commission to look into the best means of carrying out the scheme.

A BILL FOR TRAMPS.

Mr. Richardson introduced an amendment to the Municipal Act to enable Councils of cities, towns, townships, and villages to pass by-laws for prohibiting persons from camping on the highways, or vacant land adjoining, except with the consent of the owner of such lands, and to enable constables to arrest, without a warrant, persons violating this Act.

BRIDGES BETWEEN COUNTIES.

Mr. Stratton introduced a bill to amend the Municipal Act so that an

iron bridge on stone piers crossing a navigable river and of the length of not less than 300 feet, provided with a swing and which has been erected by contributions from municipal, Dominion, and provincial sources shall be deemed a bridge over a river forming a boundary line between two counties within the meaning of section 167.

FOR CYCLISTS.

Mr. Stratton introduced a bill respecting cycle paths and cycle path commissioners. It provides that county judges shall appoint five persons to constitute a Board of Cycle-path Commissioners in each county, the commissioners to serve without compensation except disbursements. They are to grant annual licenses to cyclists and to charge 50 cents for each license. The records of the names of the licensees is to be kept. Cycle paths are to be for the exclusive use of licensed cyclists. The license fee is to be deposited with the city, town, or county treasurer, and is to form a cycle-path fund, which may be drawn upon by the commissioners. Moneys so collected are to be appropriated to the repairing of existing cycle paths and the construction of new ones, and the enforcement of regulations for the use of bicycle paths. A penalty of \$10 is to be imposed for riding a bicycle on bicycle paths without a license. The boards of adjoining counties may be united.

AGAINST BARBERRY.

Mr. Little introduced a bill to prohibit cultivation of barberry shrubs within half a mile of farm land used for grain producing. It provides that the Minister of Agriculture may direct the destruction of barberry cultivated contrary to the provisions of the Act. It provides also for compensation to the owner of the shrubs destroyed, and a penalty of less than \$20, and not more than \$100.

MR. WARDELL'S ALIEN BILL.

Mr. Wardell introduced his alien labour bill. It provides that in the case of any special Act passed during the present session or hereafter passed conferring the franchise for constructing a bridge, railway, tramway, turnpike road, telegraph or telephone line, harbour improvements, canals, locks, dams, slides, rights of carrying on any trade, business, occupation, or calling no alien shall be employed in connection with such works under penalty upon the person employing such alien of \$25 for every day alien is so employed, to be recovered on summary conviction, and any manager, director, officer or agent of a corporation employing an alien or who permits or consents that such employment shall be liable in the same manner as a private individual.

IMPORTANT MUNICIPAL BILL.

Mr. Conmee introduced an important measure to provide for the municipal franchise. It provides that in case a municipality goes into the gas or electric light business it must make a bid for the plant of any existing company on a basis to be settled by arbitration, and that where an existing contract for lighting a municipality expires, the municipality may compel the lighting company, if necessary, to submit the terms of the new contract to arbitration.

MAY SHOOT DEER IN WATER.

A number of bills were advanced a stage, and in connection with the bill of Mr. Reid, to repeal the clause which prohibited the shooting of deer in the water, the Minister of Crown Lands announced that in view of the great diversity of opinion as to the present law, the Government had decided to embody Mr. Reid's proposal in a bill of its own.

MESSAGES SENT WITHOUT WIRES.

Telegrams sent between the Queen and Osborne and the Prince on the Royal Yacht.

A despatch from London, says:—Great interest was excited at the meeting of the Society of Electrical Engineers on Thursday night by Signor Marconi's wireless telegraphy demonstration. He sent a message from one end of the hall to the other by means of small apparatus. He said that operations which had been in progress daily for months between the South Foreland and the lights on the East Goodwins showed that on no single occasion had communication been interrupted, despite all sorts of bad weather. Messages between the Queen at Osborne and the Prince of Wales on the Royal yacht had been transmitted, in some instances for a distance of eight miles, overland. Intervening hills, although 300 feet higher than the vertical wire at Osborne, offered no obstacle.

During his lecture Signor Marconi received a note conveying the permission of the French Gov. to establish his system between Folkestone and Boulogne. Signor Marconi states that vertical wires rising to a height of 114 feet will be sufficient to insure communication between the two coasts.

SET FIRE TO HER NIGHT-ROBE.

In Igniting the Gas the Flames Communicated to Her Garments.

A despatch from Brantford, says:—Miss Annie Ellis, aged 18, daughter of J. F. Ellis, Albion street, was fatally burned at three o'clock on Tuesday morning.

Miss Ellis arose at three o'clock. She lit a match, and in some manner the flame was communicated to her night-robe. The garment was made of flannel, and highly inflammable. In a moment the young woman was enveloped in flames. Her shrieks aroused her mother, who wrapped a blanket about her daughter. By this means the blaze was stamped out, but not until only a few shreds of the garment remained unconsumed.

In many places the cuticle was burned and charred in a horrible manner. All that two physicians could devise was done to allay her sufferings, but without avail.

BIG WAREHOUSE WRECKED

FALLING WALLS DESTROY A KINGSTON ESTABLISHMENT.

Loss Will be About \$20,000—An Old Man Buried Under the Debris—Collapse of the Oddfellows' Building Ruins.

A despatch from Kingston says:—A mighty crash occurred at 5.40 o'clock on Sunday evening, and the fine furniture establishment of T. F. Harrison and Co., was wrecked, the furniture which filled the three-storey building being converted into kindling wood. A very high wall left standing after the fire which destroyed the Oddfellows' block had fallen out and done the damage.

All day up to 4 o'clock rain fell. The wind arose and soon became violent. At 5.40 o'clock the wall swayed, and then with a crash came down on Harrison's. The third and second storeys of the furniture establishment were carried down into the first, the whole mass presenting a pitiable sight.

MAN BURIED UNDER THE WALL.

The two upper storey walls were carried out upon the sidewalk, the mass falling upon Joseph Gould, caretaker of the Central school. He was speedily pulled out, and sent to the hospital. He was conscious, but can only remember that bricks fell upon him. His left leg is broken, his face out, and his body badly bruised. It is also feared he has been hurt inwardly. He is an old man.

Harrison and Co. had about \$10,000 worth of stock, and of this, possibly not \$1,000 worth will be saved. Charles D. Chown, tinware dealer, had a corner knocked out of his works, and he will be a loser to the extent of \$300. The buildings were owned by Miss Gilderleeve, and were worth about \$8,000.

Several coal stoves were going in Harrison's building, and it was feared a blaze might follow, but the firemen speedily turned out and prevented such an additional calamity, for a fire in such a place and with the raging gale would have done great destruction.

MANY NARROW ESCAPES.

There were a number of narrow escapes. Harvey Hoppins and several other men were showered with plaster. They were only a short distance behind Mr. Gould. The loss will fall heavily upon some parties, as the insurance policies did not cover accidents. It is likely a suit will be necessary to determine who is liable for the loss. The wall was an inside one, and was partially used for three storeys by Miss Gilderleeve as the dividing wall. The remaining walls will be watched to prevent further damage.

QUEEN FEARS ASSASSINS.

She Will Abandon Her Proposed Visit to the Riviera.

A despatch from London, says:—Queen Victoria has practically decided to abandon her projected visit to the Riviera. She had arranged to start March 8.

This change of plans is not due to any friction with France, but because of the constant personal attacks by which her advent has been heralded in the Nicols Journal.

Remembering the assassination of the Empress of Austria, it is feared that these attacks may incite some half-demented person to make an attack of which might prove fatal at Qshock of which might prove fatal at her advanced age.

LAMP BURST IN SICK ROOM.

Young Lady Patient Very Seriously Burned at Blenheim.

A despatch from Chatham, Ont., says:—Miss P. Clark, of Thamesville, while visiting her aunt, Mrs. James Bell, at Blenheim was taken ill with pneumonia. Thursday night a lamp left burning in her room exploded, setting fire to the curtain and bedding. Miss Clark got up, and in attempting to put out the fire her night-dress caught. The other inmates came to the rescue and extinguished the flames. Miss Clark was quite seriously burned, and she has also suffered a relapse. Her chances of recovery are slight.

112 AND A SPINSTER.

Death of an Omecnee Lady at a Remarkable Age.

A despatch from Omecnee, Ont., says:—There died here on Friday Mary Ann Hannah, a woman of 112 years of age. She was a native of Ireland and retained possession of her faculties to the last. She was able to relate events of the rebellion of 1798, which she remembered as a child. She never married and was never photographed till last summer, when an excellent picture of her was secured.

SUNDAY REFORM IN EUROPE.

German Crusade Against the Continental Idea of the Sabbath.

A despatch from Frankfurt-on-the-Main, says:—The crusade against the "Continental Sunday" is at full tilt in Frankfurt. Societies have been formed to urge the closing of the shops on Sundays, and their members are bringing all the pressure possible to bear in favour of the reform. At a town meeting called to get an expression in opposition to the "wide-open" twenty-three of these societies were present in a body.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD

Prices of Grain, Cattle, Cheese, &c. in the Leading Ports.

Toronto, March 7.—We had fifty loads of stuff all told at the western cattle yards this morning. The supply was heavy for an off-day.

The trade in export cattle was dull, and not much changed hands. The boats have scarcely as yet recovered their regular order of running, and prices were too high this morning, and with little disposition on the part of exporters to purchase little was done.

Prices were unchanged at from 41-4 to 43-4c per lb., which 5c asked for prime stuff. Drivers would not sell at a reduction, and when they could not get their prices held their stock.

We had a brisk trade in butchers' cattle, and choice stuff sold at from 4 to 41-4c per lb. Several loads of good cattle sold at from 31-2 to 33-4c per lb., and for all medium to choice stuff prices were well maintained, but there was a little slowness with the inferior grades of cattle, though prices were much the same as on Tuesday, while some drovers did say they could not get their price for poorer stuff as easily.

Choice shipping bulls are in fair request at from 31-2 to 4c per lb.; light bulls are worth from 21-2 to 3c per lb.

Buffalo stockers are unchanged at from \$8 to \$3.65 per cwt. Trade in stockers is fair and they are wanted. Here are some of to-day's representative transactions:—

Six good butchers' cattle, averaging 950 lbs., sold at \$3.90 per cwt.

A load of exporters, averaging 1,250 lbs., sold at 43-4c per lb.

Half a dozen butchers' cattle, averaging 1,000 lbs., sold at 4c.

A load of butchers' cattle, averaging 1,025 lbs., sold at 4c and five dollars back.

A lot of eight, averaging 1,060 lbs., sold at 4c per lb.

Six cattle, averaging 1,085 lbs., sold at 4 1-4c per lb.

Eleven cattle, scaling close on 1,100 lbs., each, sold at 4 1-8c per lb.

Three prime steers, averaging 1,300 lbs., sold at 5c per lb.

The bulk of to-day's business was made up of small sales.

Milk cows are unchanged. No active demand, but a few prime cows will sell at good figures.

Good calves are in demand, and will sell up to \$8 or \$9 each. Common calves are dull.

Lambs are steady at from \$1.40 to \$4.75 per cwt. There are too many lambs of secondary and inferior grades coming in. It is the best which are wanted.

Sheep are unchanged from Tuesday last.

Bucks sell at from 21-2 to 23-4c per lb.

We had a thousand hogs in. The market is weak but unchanged.

For choice selections the best price is 41-4c per lb.

For light hogs the outside price is 4c per lb.

Thick fat hogs are worth not more than 33-4c per lb.

Sows sell at 3c per lb.

Stags are quoted at 2c per lb.

Following is the range of current rent quotations:—

Cattle.

Shipping, per cwt. \$4 25 50 00
Butcher, choice, do. 3 50 4 12 1-2
Butcher, med. to good. 3 12-2 3 50
Butcher, inferior 2 75 3 00

Sheep and Lambs.

Kwes, per cwt 3 25 3 50
Lambs, per cwt 4 40 4 70
Bucks, per cwt 2 50 2 75

Milkers and Calves.

Cows, each 25.00 45.00
Calves, each 2 00 8 00

Hogs.

Choice hogs, per cwt. 4 12-2 4 25
Heavy hogs, per cwt. 3 50 3 75
Light hogs, per cwt 4 00 4 00

Buffalo, March 7.—Spring wheat—

Dull but firm; No. 1 hard, 88 7-8c; No. 1 Northern, 81 1-2c. Winter wheat—No offering; quotations nominal; No. 2 red, 78 1-2c; No. 3 extra red, 77 1-2c; No. 1 white, 78c. Corn—Weak; unsettled; No. 2 yellow, 38 1-2c; No. 3 yellow, 38c; No. 4 yellow, 37 1-2c; No. 2 corn, 37 1-2c to 37 3-4c; No. 3 corn, 37 1-2c; No. 4 corn, 37c. Oats—Dull and easy; No. 1 white, 35c; No. 2 white, 34 1-4c; No. 3 white, 33 1-4 to 33 1-2c; No. 4 white, 33 3-4c; No. 2 mixed, 32 1-4c; No. 3 mixed, 31c. Barley—Enquiry good; sales light; sales of Western at 52c. Rye—Quiet; No. 2, on track, 66c. Flour—Quiet. Barley—Steady.

Detroit, March 7.—Wheat—Closed:—

No. 1 white, cash, 73 3-4c; No. 2 red, cash, 71 1-4c; May, 73 1-4c; July, 72 3-4c.

Milwaukee, March 7.—Wheat—Lower; No. 1 Northern, 72 1-2c; No. 2 Northern, 70 1-2c. Rye—Steady, 57c. Barley—Steady; No. 2, 50 to 50 1-2c; sample, 42 to 48c.

Minneapolis, March 7.—Wheat—

March, 70 1-2c; July, 71 1-2c; on track, No. 1 hard, 71 3-8c; No. 1 Northern, 70 3-8c; No. 2 Northern, 68 3-8c. Flour—First patents, \$3.89 to \$4; second patents, \$3.60 to \$3.70; first clears, \$2.70 to \$2.80. Bran—in bulk, \$10.75 to \$11.

Duluth, March 7.—Wheat—No. 1

hard, cash, 71 1-8c bid; March, 71 1-8c; May, 73 5-8 to 73 3-4c; July, 74 1-8c; No. 1 Northern, cash, 69 1-8c; No. 2 Northern, 65 5-8c.

AWFUL PLAGUE IN BOMBAY.

Official Returns Under-estimate Last Week's Deaths at 97.

The Bombay correspondent of the London Morning Post, says:—"The bubonic plague is raging here with unparalleled severity. According to the official returns, there were 972 deaths last week, but these quite underestimate the mortality."