

SIXTY YEARS IN UPPER CANADA

trade being especially dull, but the agricultural and mining industries were being fostered and developed.

Perhaps the most important measure foreshadowed was a bill reducing the number of members of county councils. This bill aroused much discussion, and amendments, ranging from the six months' hoist to the suppressing or changing of certain sections, were offered and defeated. Though well intended, the measure never received full popular approval, and a return has been made to the system which it superseded.

Private bills asking for power to build and operate lines of electric railways were appearing in considerable numbers, and a bill amending the Electric Railway Act of the previous session was introduced.

The powers of the province to enact prohibitory liquor legislation were still undecided, and in this matter the Legislature was marking time.

Though there was little legislation to excite interest or contention, one hundred and twenty-two acts received the Royal assent when Lieut.-Governor Kirkpatrick prorogued the House on the 7th of April, 1896.

During the recess the Dominion elections took place. The Reformers were victorious, and Sir Oliver Mowat bade farewell to the Provincial Legislature, and became Minister of Justice at Ottawa.