DOINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE

MONDAY

Saturday, April 2.

The doors were opened at 11 o'clock.

THE PREMIER introduced a bill to amend the Chancery Act, also a resolution to authorise the Lieut. Governor in Council to provide a new jail for Queen's County, and, if necessary to issue debentures to defray the cost. The House in committee considered the resolution, Mr Irving in the chair.

THE PREMIER explained that the Government had been authorized some time ago to exchange the present site of the jail for a new site purchased on the Mount Edward Road. He thought this might be exchanged for a better site near by. The bill is an enabling act, authorising the exchange. Nobody seemed to want the jail near their residence, which was a mere fanciful idea, as the new jail will be a handsome building. It ought to be near the railway. He thought the time might come when the new jail would serve for both Queens and Kings counties as the prisoners are but few, and the King's County jail is out of repair.

HON. MR. HUGHES thought the site on the Mount Edward Road was a good one, affording a chance to utilise the labor of the prisoners. He doubted the power of the city to change the site first chosen.

MR. MATHIESON thought that until the Province was placed in a solvent position the expense of a new jail, which might be very large, ought not to be incurred. We should not borrow money to build new jails. He asked how the King's County prisoners would be kept during trial, if the King's County jail is to be abandoned.

HON. MR. CUMMISKEY said the need of a new jail was admitted. Successive courts and grand juries as well as the City Council had called attention to the fact that the present jail is scarcely habitable.

MR. WYATT thought it questionable whether as a matter of sentiment, or to approve the appearance of the city, the Province would be justified in incurring this expense and borrowing the money. Prisoners were yearly becoming fewer.

DR. WARBURTON said there could be no question as to the necessity for a new jail if prisoners were to be decently and humanely housed as became a civilized country. The question of location was a debatable one.

The matter was further discussed by Mr. Cox, Hon. L. McDonald, Hon Mr. McMillan, Hon Mr. Hughes, Mr. Palmer, Mr. McKinnon, Hon. Mr. Cummiskey, Mr. Crosby.

THE PREMIER in reply to some criticisms blaming the Government for the disgraceful condition of the jail, pointed out that the present building is of wood and seventy or eighty years old. It is kept as clean and sanitary as is possible, under the circumstances, and any member who thought otherwise should visit it and see for himself.

The resolution was reported agreed to, after which committee of supply was resumed.

MR. McLEAN suggested that the vote for education be allowed to stand, so far as the objected items are concerned. The item $6,850 for exhibitions was taken up.

Mr. Arsenault, Mr Palmer, Mr. J Kennedy, Hon. Mr. Richards, several speakers asking that the grants to the county exhibitions should be increased. Mr. Kennedy thought Charlottetown ought to pay at least one quarter of the grant for the provincial exhibition from which the city profited largely.

HON. MR. RICHARDS declared himself a firm believer in the local shows. He had visited a number of them which were most creditable. How far they could be aided was a question of means. He regretted that it would be hardly practical to give more than the grants now proposed. He thought the exhibitions were useful to all farmers in an educational way. He failed to see how the prize lists at the local shows could be made much larger but would be glad to encourage them in every way he could.

MR. LAIRD thought too much attention was given to trotting horses and too little to other and more useful live stock. The discussion was continued by Hon. L. McDonald, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Cox and the Premier.

THE PREMIER, in reply to a number of objections as to the trotting pointed out that the gate money on racing days was a large source of revenue. More than the entire Government grant was paid out in prizes. An advantage to stock raisers was the opportunity to sell their fine stock which was distributed through out the Island. He strongly urged the necessity and utility of a central provincial exhibition.

HON. MR. CUMMISKEY said that all the money granted by the Government for exhibitions went back to the farmers in the form of prizes. The Exhibition Association was not making money rapidly.

MR. IRVING spoke of the great value of the exhibition to farmers stock raisers and fruit-growers. They stimulated interest, gave encouragement and educated all by showing what the most successful men were doing in the various lines of agricultural industry. The item then passed.

The items for insane hospital, interest, and many others were passed with little discussion, and at one o'clock the House adjourned till Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

TUESDAY

Monday, April 4.

MR. JAMES KENNEDY asked the Commissioner of Public Works if he has received a petition from the inhabitants of New Annan regarding McIntyre's Bridge? If so, is it the intention of the Government to comply with the request of said petition. Table petition with all correspondence.

HON. MR. CUMMISKEY said the petition had been received and would receive the attention of the Government and the information asked for would be given.

The bill to incorporate the Charlottetown Motor Company was read a second time, on motion of Hon. Mr. Gallant, referred to committee of the whole.

The incorporators are C. Leonard Grant, W. R. Aitken, J. J. McKinnon, Beni Rogers, Jr and J. E. Matthews. The capital stock is $20,000 in $10 shares, and the powers asked for are to manufacture, buy and sell motors, motor vehicles, and conduct a manufacturer's agency along these lines.

The bill was agreed to and reported without amendment.

On the motion of the Premier to go into committee of supply Mr Wyatt objected that information asked for in regard to teachers being paid for higher class than they held had not been fully supplied. The Premier said that by agreement the item for education would stand over. The House in committee took up the Public Works Department estimates, $5,500, an increase of $100.

MR. MATHIESON objected that money, almost $600, had been expended without authority or competition, particularly in election year and for the purpose of securing votes. He asked for an explanation.

HON. MR. CUMMISKEY said this matter had been threshed out last year and full explanations given, particularly of the Lavers matter referred to by the last speaker. In several cases it had been found expedient to get work done by the day without tenders. He contended that in all such cases fair value had been obtained.

MR. MATHIESON said except in cases of emergency, competition was required by law. In this case there was no emergency, but $600 was expended by the hands of one man between 30th September and election day. A large part of this was for cutting bushes.

HON. L. MacDONALD strongly objected to the charge that the money was expended to buy votes.

MR. MATHIESON said that he was charging what had come under his own knowledge and that the money was paid by the overseer on express stipulation that those receiving it should vote for the Government candidate. If a committee were granted he would prove the facts to the hilt.

HON. MR. CUMMISKEY said no officer of his department had any authority to do anything of the kind. He had no knowledge of any such transaction, and if the names were given him he would order an investigation. He cited a case where tenders had been called for some work, which work was afterward done by day labor for less than half the price named in the lowest tender.

MR. WYATT read from the return a list of names of persons paid small sums for cutting bushes. He argued that this was not emergency work. The only emergency was that an election was near.

MR. COX said people at election times were very pressing for road improvements. They said it was the only time they could get anything done. (Laughter) They also said if the Government would not do this or that they had the promise that the other party would do if they got in.

The item was further discussed by Mr. Mathieson, Hon. Mr. Cummiskey, Mr. MacLean, Mr. McKinnon, Mr. Prowse, the Premier and others at considerable length.

The item then passed. The item of ferries Queen's County caused discussion over the sum of $3,000 for steamer Hillsboro, Charlottetown to Rocky Point.

HON. MR. CUMMISKEY explained that it included a contract for $2400 and a bill for repairs three years ago which bill had not been presented soonor. He offered to produce the bill and Mr. Mathieson asked that the item stand over till the bill is produced.

The item was discussed by Messrs. Mathieson, McLean, Cox, Wyatt, Cummiskey and others, the Opposition contending that these old bills coming in years after the work was done, was unbusiness-like, and suggested that other big bills might be outstanding. In this case a bill for $1500 was presented and paid three years ago, the House believing that was all, and now a bill for $500 more comes in. The item was stood over.

Ferries, Prince County, $1605 called forth further discussion, in which Mr. Dobie called attention to the inadequacy of the ferry at Ellis River. He said there would be a very large traffic if the ferry was properly equipped.

MR. A. J. McDONALD thought that now the people of Charlottetown were given a bridge, doing away with ferry tolls, some consideration should be shown to other sections still dependent on ferries.

Ferries in King's County brought another discussion during which the Commissioner stated that propositions were being considered to improve the Cardigan ferry so as to give the best service possible for $500. No contract had been let. A suitable boat had first been provided.

MR. MATHIESON contended that it would be impossible to give a service such as is needed for $500. He wanted the vote enlarged. The ferry is a most important one, he said, and it was simply scandalous that it had been so greatly neglected. The item then passed.

On the vote of $3,000 for wharves, Mr. Mathieson wanted to know what the policy of the Government is with regard to Southport wharf.

THE COMMISSIONER said no money was being spent on it and the Premier said it was hoped to have the federal Government take it over and maintain it, but it was no easy task to get this done.

EVENING SESSION.

At 8.30 the House resumed its sitting. On the motion to go into committee of supply—

MR. WYATT again brought up the matter of the third class teachers who received second class pay. He claimed that the inquiry made by Mr. Mathieson had not been fully answered, that the law had been broken; that neither Dr. Anderson nor the Board of Education could have any authority to make such payments; and that teachers had received licenses who had failed to pass the required examination. He moved seconded by Mr. Kennedy an amendment reciting these allegations and asking for a special committee to investigate them with power to examine witnesses under oath.

THE PREMIER said he was instructed by the Superintendent of Education that no licenses had been issued to any one not qualified, although permits had been in some cases issued. There were but six, not seven as stated in the return, who had received second-class pay under third-class license. Only one permit had been granted during the past year. The arrangement to pay the six teachers beyond their license grade was made by the Superintendent without the knowledge of the Board. There were no second-class teachers receiving first-class pay. No teacher under permit received more than $80 per year. As to the schools having less than twenty pupils, the clause 39, providing for a deduction of salery had never been acted upon. Any deduction made had been under clause 15. There had been no attempt to use the school act or system for political purposes. It had been administered honestly in the interest of education and several communities where the schools were located. In one case only, a young lady who was ill at the time of examination but well qualified, was allowed to receive second-class pay. In another case a young man who had made high marks at St. Dunstan's, but being ill did not take the teacher's examination was allowed to teach for a short time only.

MR MATHIESON said some information not asked for had been given, but not all that was asked for. He held the Government and the Auditor more blamable than the Superintendent. They held the purse-strings and unlawful payments could not be made except by their consent and connivance.

MR. CROSBY felt satisfied that no wrong had been done in granting permits to teacher for one year in certain cases which he named. There could be no political reason, as the teachers referred to had voted for the Opposition candidates.

The discussion was continued by Mr. J. Kennedy, Mr. McKinnon, Hon Mr. Gallant, Mr. McLean, Mr. Palmer, Mr Arsenault and Mr. Laird. The amendment was then rejected by a party vote of 14 to 12 and the House resolved itself into committee of supply at 9.45.

The votes for wharves and packets were passed after some conversational discussion.

Roads, $30,000 was the next item, and brought a number of members to their feet in succession to tell of the wants and requirements of their respective sections. Among those who took part were Mr. J. Kennedy, Mr. Delaney, Mr. McLean, Hon. Mr Cummiskey, (who answered many questions good naturedly) Mr. Crosby, Mr. Arsenault, Mr. Prowse, Mr Dobie Mr Mathieson.

The last named speaker laid emphasis upon the payment of $555 to Hon. Peter McNutt, then a member of the Government for a right of way 56 chains, just before the last election, effected by private sale. He said there had been no petition for this road, which would only accomodate one or two persons.

MR. J. KENNEDY said this road was only used by Mr. McNutt and a friend of his.

HON. MR. CUMMISKEY explained that the new road was to take the place of a shore road that had washed away, that three plans had been proposed and the engineer had recommended the plan adopted, which would save the construction of a costly bridge.

THE PREMIER added that the farm in question was a very valuable one, in a high state of cultivation, and it was cut in two. The amount paid was not excessive, and the road accommodated a number of persons.

Many speakers continued the discussion till 11.30 when the item passed. Bridges $23,000 was the next vote called for, and it brought forth another crop of complaints, charges and explanations, but was passed. After several minor items, the vote of $28,622 on capital account was passed and some items previously which had been held over.

At midnight progress was reported and the House adjourned till 11 o'clock tomorrow morning.

WEDNESDAY

Tuesday, April 5.

The doors were opened at 11.50.

HON. MR. CUMMISKEY presented a bill to amend the Public Roads Act.

The bill respecting proof of claims against the estates of deceased persons was read a third time and passed, as was also the bill incorporating the Tyne Valley Dairying Company, and the bill to incorporate the Charlottetown Motor Company.

The House, in committee, considered the bill respecting taxes on guarantee insurance companies. The Premier explained that the business of the guarantee companies was so small here that the tax of $50 had been practically prohibitive. The bill provides that companies doing only a guarantee business shall pay $10. Progress was reported.

The bill to amend the land assessment act was further considered in committee of the whole.

THE PREMIER briefly outlined the object of the bill and the machinery it provides for adjusting the valuation of lands for taxation purposes.

MR. MATHIESON noted that the bill strongly resembled a former act, but with new machinery that must greatly increase the cost of assessing and collecting the taxes on land. He held there was no pretext for assuming that the land is undervalued. It was now assessed at $16,500,000 outside of Charlottetown and Summerside. This was a high valuation for a million acres of farm lands. On that valuation the taxes would be $33,000. They had actually paid from $30,000 up to $35,000 last year, an average of $32,000. The income tax was far more unequal, and much more evaded. He had tried to get a copy of the income tax list, but it had been denied him. The income tax should be collected, and all who were liable compelled to pay. To get the $20,000 a year more from the farmers that the Premier contemplated the valuation must be raised ten millions to $26,500,000. It was an attempt to throw the whole burden on the farmers.

THE PREMIER said the land valuation had been grossly unequal. He held a list of eight farmers assessed at $9,150. The selling value was $23,000. He gave other specific instances of undervaluation, where the assessment was but one-third to one-half the selling value. He would not say that all the lands are undervalued. People in Alberta and Saskatchewan were taxed four or five times as much on the same values as is paid here. All the Government wanted was an equitable adjustment. In regard to the income tax, there had been no favors shown. He believed there ought to be many more names on the list. The income tax did not yield what it ought to, but there was great difficulty in getting the information. He had received a memorial from the civil service complaining of the new taxes laid on them. Personally, he had no objection to publishing the list of income taxes. It might do good service. Instead of ten thousand dollars from this tax the country should receive two or three times that amount. The civil servants claimed that the farmers of Queen's County outside of Charlottetown have over a million dollars in the Dominion Government savings banks, and yet paid only $437 in income tax. King's and Prince Counties were about as bad. He did not think copies of the income tax list should be made for distribution unless the whole list is published. The leader of the Opposition had access to it. The Government did not propose to deal with the income tax further than to put on the list every name not now there of persons having taxable incomes.

MR. MATHIESON argued that if such inequalities in land valuation existed as the Premier stated, it showed gross neglect on the part of the Government in not having called in the appraisers provided for by the present law. The people should know that their representatives were not allowed to get copies of the income tax list. He challenged the Premier's statement as to Alberta land tax. There is no Provincial land tax there, he said.

MR. McLEAN thought the income tax list should be published. Many were not paying who ought to pay. The farmers had a right to know how this income tax was being evaded. He read from Premier Murray's budget in Nova Scotia to prove that there is no Provincial land tax there.

AFTERNOON SESSION

In committee of the whole Mr. McLean resumed his speech on the land assessment bill. He would like to see the income and land tax put on the same footing as to publicity. In that way the income tax list could be revised and corrected from information furnished by those who knew. He referred to the Nova Scotia system.

HON. MR. McINNIS referred to New Brunswick where the Government's direct contribution to the support of education was less than one third of the whole. Here the Government pays much more than two thirds of the cost. The farmers' taxes here, he said, were small compared with the advantages they received. It was not proposed to increase the taxation, but to readjust it. Many complained of the inequalities now existing and desired that a remedy be applied, and he believed they would approve what is now proposed. They would be willing to pay more if the burden was equally adjusted. He did not think fair-minded adjusters would put the valuation too high. If they did so the courts were open to correct the error.

MR. McKINNON pointed out that some teachers in Charlottetown were receiving twice as much from the city as from the Government. As to the undervaluation of land, the Government had all along had the power to correct it, but had never revalued a farm and charged the cost to the owner as they had the power to do. He argued that there was no reason to think they would do better under the new bill. They should look after the delinquent income taxpayers as well as the farmers. Those who are known to be wealthy are paying little or nothing on income.

HON. MR. RICHARDS said it was well known that there were great inequalities in land valuation. Some had complained to him and even said they would not pay any more land taxes because their near neighbors were not paying half what they ought to pay. There would be objection made against any readjusting the valuation. He thought the plan of two adjusters for each county about as good as any that could be adopted. The collectors were supposed to report cases of undervaluation, but rarely did so. Many of them had refused. Some of them had little idea of values. With regard to the income tax, there was no question but that it was evaded. It was no easy matter to find out who should pay and how much, but the list was being steadily increased in recent years, and more names would yet be added.

MR. MATHIESON asked if the Commissioner of Agriculture had complaints brought to him, why had he not called in the appraisers as the law directed? The Premier and other members of the Government were all in the same box. They all knew of gross undervaluation, they said, but had not applied the remedy. He thought the total valuation of land was high enough. Was it proposed to take the $20,000 of new taxes from lands and apply it to pay the teachers' increased salaries? The estimates do not provide twenty cents more for the teachers. If the county courts would do good service in equalizing the land valuation, why not the same for the income tax? Why were the names on the income tax list concealed from the people? Why treat the farmer one way and the man of large income in another?

MR. LAIRD defended the record of the Liberal party in regard to education and endorsed the bill.

MR. DOBIE said if the present revenue were judiciously expended there would be no need for new taxes on the farmer. The bill dealt with one class to the exclusion of another, the men of incomes, many of whom do not pay a quarter of what they ought to pay.

MR. COX was glad to see an honest effort to make ends meet. The people want more money for education, roads and other services. Where is it to come from? He knew of no better plan to get increased revenue than that proposed in the bill, by a fair adjustment of valuation. He doubted the propriety of inquiring too closely into a man's income. It is hard for a business man to say what his income is. He thought most of them were paying all they could afford to pay.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Prowse, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Mathieson, Mr. Delaney, Mr. J. Kennedy, Hon. Mr. McMillan and Mr. Laird till nearly six o'clock. Progress was reported.

EVENING SESSION.

At 8.30 o'clock the House resumed its sitting in committee on the land assessment bill. The discussion of the bill clause by clause went on for hours, among the legal members.

At 11.30 the bill was reported agreed to after which the short chancery bill was also passed through committee. Shortly before midnight the House adjourned till 11 o'clock tomorrow.

THURSDAY

Wednesday, April 6.

The doors were opened to the public at 11.30.

THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS in reply to Mr. J. Kennedy as to increased ferry service at Bedeque, said the contract had yet a year to run. In reply to Mr. Dobie he said the road from Aldons Road to the Northam Road had been opened, and that needed repairs on the Belmont Road would receive attention.

MR. MATHIESON inquired whether steps had been taken to introduce the new Ontario readers in the public schools. He read from the Toronto Globe to show that some of the new books were severely criticised and condemned by Ontario teachers, who said the old books were better.

THE PREMIER said no contract had been closed but it was the intention to get them. It was nothing new that new books should be criticised. They could not please everybody. Manitoba was introducing new books, but from what he could learn the Ontario books were better. The matter is still open.

MR. MATHIESON thought the books were not what they should be, notably in regard to their literary quality and the poetical selections. He had read them carefully. The spelling was objectionable, the American standard being adopted. He thought the books should be submitted to some of our best teachers for their judgment.

THE PREMIER submitted estimates for the period from the close of September next till the next session of the House.

MR. MATHIESON again brought up the matter of the income tax lists. He thought members should have the right to have the lists copied by their assistants or clerks. Those who paid income tax were paying for themselves and for those who do not pay. Until the members had full information as to these matters no further supplies ought to be voted.

MR. McLEAN insisted on the right of members to know who were not paying income tax who ought to pay.

MR. COX had no objection to publishing the lists provided no improper use was made of them.

HON. MR. CUMMISKEY said the names of farmers were not published whether they paid little or much, but the names of delinquents were printed.

MR. McLEAN said 172 persons who were rated on income had not paid. Why were not their names published the same as delinquent farmers?

HON. MR. CUMMISKEY thought the names of those who refused to pay might be published, but did not think the names and amounts of those who paid should be advertised.

MR. MATHIESON insisted on the right of members to have copies made. Members could copy them, but that would take time and prolong the session. He believed that many persons willing to pay were holding back because others who were liable were allowed to go scot free.

Mr. McLEAN, Mr. Palmer and others continued the discussion.

THE PREMIER was not satisfied that it would be the peoper thing to publish the names of those who had paid. As to those repeatedly called upon and had not paid, he thought their names might be published after notice had been given them. As to the publication of the full list of those liable to income tax he thought notice should be given before the practice of the past was to be changed. Greater effort had been made last year than ever before to collect these taxes and it would be continued. The Government did not and would not in all cases accept the declarations of persons as to the amount of their incomes. He believed there were a number who ought to pay and who had not paid. Every effort would be made to collect the taxes due from these.

MR. WYATT supported the claim that the members be permitted to have copies made.

HON. MR. HUGHES said that more than half the total of income tax was paid in Charlottetown and this matter is of special interest here. Both the land tax and the income tax should be equalised and collected. He did not think it would be quite fair to publish the lists, but the income taxes should not be allowed to stand over from year to year, in some cases nine or ten years.

MR. McKINNON said the Opposition objected to the different treatment accorded to the farmers and those liable to income taxes, the latter being by far the most largely delinquent. Why could not these taxes be collected as efficiently as the city taxes, in which there were few who did not pay? He moved an amendment that the list of those accessed for income taxes, those who paid and those who are delinquent be printed in the public accounts.

HON. MR. RICHARDS spoke of the land valuation, and claimed that the Government had not been to blame in not calling in appraisers, under the present law as had been suggested. The inequalities prevailed throughout the Province, and an appraisement here and there would not meet the difficulty. As to the income tax there was great difficulty in finding out who were liable and to what extent. Some had been rated year after year and had paid no attention to the notices sent them. It might be well to publish the names of these. It would be a good thing if the arrears of income taxes could be collected and an effort was constantly being made to that end.

THE PREMIER having consented to permit the employment of clerks by members to copy the income tax lists, Mr. McKinnon's amendment was withdrawn, and the House went into committee of supply. The item of Queens county ferries, which had been held over, was taken up.

MR. J. KENNEDY discussed at length the belated bill of A. Kennedy & Co for work done on the steamer Hillsborough. He claimed that the prices were 50 to 100 per cent too high.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The House resumed committee of supply at 1.30 Mr. Kennedy continuing his criticism of the bills for the steamer Hillsboro. He thought the Commissioner should keep an order book and that goods should be ordered by requisition. He held there was nothing to show that these goods were received, or checked off, or that the bill was paid; also that the charges were one third in excess of what they should be, both in the Kennedy and Rogers Hardware Company bills. He also brought in the purchase of seed oats, making various charges.

HON. MR. CUMMISKEY replied. He had been charged by the member for Kensington with incompetence and neglect. He had inquired as to the prices. In thirty years he had never known nails to be quoted at such low rates as those quoted by the last speaker. He denied that there was any over lapping of the two accounts of A. Kennedy & Co. He quoted prices from different city firms to show that the prices charged in the bill for nails, spikes, manila, &c, were fair and reasonable. He said rope was considerably dearer a few years ago when these supplies were procured than it is now. He claimed that he had proved his case. And he did not think any fairminded member would accuse Kennedy Co of wanting more than a reasonable profit. The bills were paid by cheques which are returned to the department at the end of the month and filed away. The endorsement showed what the payment was for. This was a sufficient receipt.

MR. KENNEDY said the Commissioner had quoted the prices now from hardware firms that are supplying the department with the same goods. He (Mr. K) was ready to supply like goods for the lower prices he had quoted, one third to one half lower than what the Department paid.

MR. WYATT objected that the quantities had not been checked.

MR. McLEAN claimed that when the goods were received the captain should have certified to the Commissioner that the goods had been delivered and at fair prices.

MR. MATHIESON said that of four bills only one certified by Capt. McDougall, another had his name miss-spelled penciled on it, but the signature was not his. It was absurd to quote prices from the ring that supplied the Government. They, of course, all quoted the same prices.

The discussion was continued by Mr. J. Kennedy, Hon. Mr. Cummiskey, Mr. Mathieson, the Premier and others till nearly 5 o'clock when the item passed. Road inspectors' salaries, $2,195 was next taken up. This gave occasion for further discussion of Mr. Lavers, Mr. Clay, and various works and transactions with which they were connected. This concluded the discussion in committee of supply, all the items having been voted.

The Speaker took the chair and several bills were advanced a stage.

EVENING SESSION.

On resuming at 8.30 the bill to amend the Public Roads Act 1907 was further considered in committee, Mr. Palmer in the chair. It is a short bill, the object being to adjust the Roads Act to the Tax Act. It provides new forms for overseers to attest their returns and for persons under 21 years or over 60 years to make affidavit of the fact in claiming exemption.

MR. PROWSE made the statement that the overseer, sometimes employed incompetent persons to brush the roads across the ice.

HON MR. CUMMISKEY admitted the importance of having this work carefully done and by competent persons, as the overseers are instructed to do.

The importance of bush cutting, and having road fences of wire to prevent drifting was discussed by Mr Cox and a number of other members. The bill was then agreed to and reported with amendments.

MR. McLEAN moved the House into committee to further consider the bill to incorporate the Town of Souris, Mr. McKinnon in the chair. The bill is a long one of 149 sections and makes a pamphlet of 73 pages. It provides for a Mayor, to be elected by ballot annually and six Councillors, who shall hold office for two years.

The bill occupied the entire evening down to a late hour in reading. There was very little discussion.

At 11.30 the bill was reported agreed to with amendments and the house adjourned till tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

"Bronchitis"

is generally the result of a cold caused by exposure to wet and inclement weather and may be recognized by a tightness across the chest, sharp pains and a difficulty in breathing, a secretion of thick phlegm, at first white, but later of a greenish or yellowish color coming from the bronchial tubes when coughing, especially the first thing in the morning. Cure the first symptoms of bronchitis by the use of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup.

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