

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

MONDAY, Feb. 27.—The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

The following petition was presented: Mr. Morris—Of James Moore and 1,450 other mechanics of the city of Toronto, praying for certain amendments to the Mechanics' Lien Act.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed:

To amend the Act incorporating the Saugeen Valley Railway Company.

For the removal of certain defects in the Law of Evidence.

Respecting the Erie & Huron Railway Company.

The following Bills were read a second time without discussion:

Respecting the Ladies' Christian Association of St. Catharines.—Mr. Neelon.

To incorporate the Galt Junction Railway Company.—Mr. Young.

To incorporate the Northern & Northwestern Junction Railway Company.—Mr. Patterson.

To amend and extend the Act to incorporate the Port Rowan & Lake Shore Railway Company.—Mr. Morgan.

Mr. Ferris moved the second reading of the Bill respecting a Hospital and Home for the Friendless, Belleville.

Mr. Meredith declared that the Bill was an interference with the rights of Belleville, and he understood that the Council of the city was opposed to it.

Mr. Fraser said, while admitting the opposition of the Council, that the people were unanimous in favor of it. The Crown, inasmuch as the land had never been patented, had a right to step in and say that it should now be applied to the purpose for which it was reserved, viz., the maintenance of an hospital.

The motion was carried, and the Bill read a second time.

Mr. Meredith moved for a return showing the amount expended for repairs upon the Lieutenant-Governor's residence and outbuildings in each year since their erection, distinguishing the amounts expended on each building.—Carried.

Mr. Morris moved the second reading of a Bill to amend the Municipal Act. He introduced the Bill on behalf of the City Council of Toronto, upon whose petition it was based, but he did not vouch for the wisdom of all its provisions.

Mr. Mowat said that the first clause, providing for the election of three aldermen from every ward, each holding office for three years and retiring in rotation, would be making an undesirable change. It would work well when they had a good Council to start with; but, on the other hand, if they had a bad Council to start with, the Bill placed it practically beyond the power of the people to change that Council. Regarding the second clause, providing that the meetings of the Police Commissioners should be open, except on special occasions, there would be matters which it was not advisable to make public, and in his opinion it had better be left to the discretion of the Commissioners. There might be something good in the last sub-section respecting the inspection of milk and meat.

The Bill was read a second time, and referred to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) moved the second reading of his Bill amending the Municipal Act. It provides a collector of taxes shall not be bound to call personally upon a person for his taxes, but gives the option to the collector of posting a notice to such person. In the cities it was almost impracticable to call upon every person.

Mr. Meredith doubted whether it would work as well in the rural districts as in the cities. In the cities he thought it would do to send the notices by mail.

The Bill was read a second time and referred to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. Meredith said he again called attention to the fact that the Ditches and Watercourses Bill was not yet presented to the House. He thought it would be too late to receive that consideration it merited.

The House adjourned at 6.15.

TORONTO, Tuesday, Feb. 28.—The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

The following Bills were introduced and read the first time:

An Act respecting municipal assessments and exemptions.—Mr. Wigle.

An Act to extend the right to vote on municipal by-laws.—Mr. Lees.

An Act respecting ditches and water courses.—Mr. Wood.

An Act respecting the liens of mechanics and laborers.—Mr. Mowat.

Mr. Mowat, in moving the second reading of the Bill respecting the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal, said that the Bill was intended to remove some inconveniences at present existing with reference to that court. The first clause provided for certain amendments regarding the delivery of judgments. The Bill also provided for allowing appeals being made from decisions of county judges, except when the sum in question was under one hundred dollars. The remaining provisions chiefly related to matters of practice.

The motion passed, and the Bill was read a second time.

Mr. Mowat, in moving the second reading of the Bill making further provisions for the construction of drainage works by municipalities, said that some portions of the Bill were framed to meet a want felt in the application of the present law. The Bill provided that the County Council may take up drainage matters and assess the local municipalities, who in turn would assess the property benefited. The Bill also applied to several counties taking joint action.

Mr. Hardy moved the second reading of a Bill to establish a Provincial Board of Health, and to give increased powers to local Boards of Health. He was glad to be able to congratulate the Province of Ontario on the absence of any severe epidemics of late years. Yet their duty was to adopt precautionary measures regarding a subject of the highest importance to any community. The Board is to consist of seven, one of whom might be Secretary. All officers would be honorary, except, perhaps, in the case of the President and the Secretary. It had been suggested that \$400 could not be better spent than in paying that amount to the President. Regarding the Secretary, it had been suggested that \$1,000 would be sufficient compensation for the work. There would be other expenses connected

with printing, etc., but it was thought that \$3,000 or \$4,000 would cover the whole annual expense, including salaries. It was also provided that the Board should keep on hand a supply of vaccine matter. It provided also for the isolation of infected cases, and the reporting of all cases to the Board of Health by attendant physicians. He moved the second reading.

Mr. McMahon felt sure that should typhus fever become epidemic in the Province, the mortality would be much lessened by the prompt action of the proposed Board. Two great causes of typhoid fever were defective drainage and bad water, which latter applied closely to Toronto. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Hay blamed the medical men for the ignorance existing regarding sanitary science and the laws of physical health. He suggested that popular lectures should be delivered throughout the Province on this subject teaching the people. He would have the clergy study natural physical laws and teach them from the pulpit.

It being 6 o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

The House resumed at 7.30.

Dr. Kincaid thought the Provincial Secretary was to be congratulated on introducing a measure which met with so little adverse criticism. (Hear, hear.) He would support it even if it had more imperfections than it had, and trusted that the anticipated good would flow from it.

Mr. Morris paid a high tribute to the disinterested motives and generous conduct of the members of the Canadian medical profession, and heartily approved of the Bill.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Mr. Mowat moved the second reading of the Bill providing for the establishment of free libraries. He rejoiced, he said, at the public agitation which called for such a Bill.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the Bill respecting Market Fees, as reprinted.

Mr. Wood explained that "poultry" had been added to "butter and eggs" as articles upon which fees might be charged when accommodation was furnished.

Mr. Meredith strenuously objected to the clause providing that no by-law shall require hay, wood, etc., to be weighed or measured when neither buyer nor vendor desires it.

Mr. Wood defended the clause, which was passed.

With reference to clause seven providing that municipalities may regulate the sale by retail in the public streets, the intention of the Government was explained to be that although farmers were at liberty to hawk goods about the streets, they would not be permitted to block up any street by congregating thereon.

Clause eight is altered to provide that any of the preceding sections of the Act shall not apply to cities or towns which provide a market and give farmers the option of either resorting to or staying away from such market, and leaves the present scale of fees applicable to all who do resort to the market with respect to all articles.

Mr. Meredith asked why such municipalities should not be allowed to confer upon farmers the option of hawking about certain classes of produce free of fees, leaving them the privilege of selling other classes upon the market.

Mr. Hardy thought that would complicate matters very much. The clause was finally passed with slight amendment.

Section nine provides that municipalities having once established free markets cannot return to the old scale of fees.

A new section was here inserted giving municipalities imposing fees all the powers they have at present as to regulating the markets.

In reply to Mr. Meredith,

Mr. Wood said that he knew of no case in which a contract for market fees had been made with any contractor covering a period for some years yet to come.

The committee rose and reported the Bill as amended.

The House adjourned at 11.10.

A QUARTETTE OF FELO-DE-SE.

Suicidal Epidemic in Michigan.

DETROIT, Feb. 23.—Yesterday morning it was discovered that Henry Hofffeld, a shoemaker, who lived alone on Hale street, had committed suicide by hanging himself.

He was found dead on the floor by the side of his bed with a rope around his neck, and attached to the bedstead. His appearance indicated that he suffered a hard death. No reasons for his act could be learned, and it could only be attributable to his continued ill-health. The jury rendered a verdict that the deceased came to his death by hanging by his own hands.

A Grand Rapids despatch says there were two attempts to commit suicide in this city this afternoon, neither of which was successful, though one is likely to prove so in the end. The first was that of a man named Augustus Nettel, who swallowed a large quantity of liniment containing ammonia and other drugs. His life was saved by prompt medical attention. Soon after taking the poison he became violent, and threatened to kill his wife, who called a police officer and afterward a physician. The cause of the attempt was despondency, induced by continued ill-health. He is very weak, and will probably die. The other case was that of a woman named Baker, wife of a travelling salesman for a leading wholesale grocer. The woman swallowed laudanum, and then inhaled chloroform so as to make a sure job of it. The stomach pump was used, and she will recover. This is her third attempt at self-destruction.

David Blackwood, of Novi, Oakland County, committed suicide last night by cutting his throat from ear to ear. No cause is assigned. Mr. Blackwood was a well-to-do farmer about 40 years of age.

William Henderson, a Philadelphia thief, gave up picking pockets and began to lead an honest life. He won the love of a young schoolmistress, and they were engaged to marry. After all the preparations had been made for the wedding, which was to take place in a few days, a detective informed her parents of their prospective son-in-law's past career. The shock to the girl was so great that her recovery is doubtful. Henderson now accuses the detectives of blackmailing him.

Six brothers and sisters were buried together in Cleveland. Diphtheria killed them all.

OUR NORTHWEST POSSESSIONS

The Boom in Real Estate—High Price for a Church—Markets and Cattle Stocking at Western Points.

Portage has a Chinaman.

West Lynne is to have a new Presbyterian Church.

A new Church of England is to be erected at the Portage.

Some of the West Lynnes have gone to Panoake Lake to reside.

In the Little Saskatchewan district farm lands range from \$6 to \$60 per acre.

Two ladies reported an earthquake at the Little Saskatchewan on the 11th.

Mr. Balkwill, of Rapid City, has disposed of 300 acres adjoining his mill property for \$20,000.

The demand for wood is increasing at West Lynne, and the price has gone up with a jump to \$7 a cord.

Beer, of a very mild variety, is manufactured and sold at two establishments in Edmonton this winter.

Mr. Cowan has sold his farm of 640 acres about three miles from the Portage to Mr. Alloway, of Winnipeg, for the round sum of \$32,000.

Martin, Hamel & Co. have sold the Montcalm farm, the property of J. E. Tetu, near Emerson, and consisting of 640 acres, to a gentleman in Toronto, for \$38,000.

The Indians predict that the Red River will not overflow this spring, their theory being that the wells in the Red River valley nearly all went dry this winter.

The H. B. Co. paid dues on four hundred thousand feet of lumber out at Edmonton last summer, and Norris & Co. on two hundred thousand.

Mr. P. J. Pilkey, formerly of the American Hotel, Brantford, writes home "that Manitoba is the country for him, and that he is likely to make his home there."

Knox Church, near the corner of Main street and Portage avenue, Winnipeg, erected two years ago at the cost of about \$25,000, was sold recently for \$126,000! The purchaser is "Lightning John," of Chatham.

Edmonton lots of the H. B. Co. are changing hands at large advance. Prices range from \$30 to \$60 advance on residences lots to \$100 on those on Broadway and Main streets, while corner lots on either of the above streets are still higher.

By careful estimation it has been found that 300,000 bushels of grain, including wheat, oats and barley, have been sold in the Portage since last fall, and only a little more than half of the grain grown in this district has yet been marketed.

The Nelsonville Mountaineer says: It is about time the whiskey business in this country was either legalized or stopped.

The Scott Act so far has proved absolutely hurtful, and entirely owing to the unaccountable indifference of the very people who appeared so zealous to have it passed.

J. Waiter has a contract from the Northwest Navigation Company of building three flat bottomed scows, of eight tons burden, at the Athabasca Landing next spring. They are to be used in taking the machinery for a steamboat down the Athabasca to a point below the rapids which exist on that river between the mouth of the Lac la Biche River and Fort McMurray at the mouth of the Clearwater.

Mr. Radiger, sen., who is staying with his son-in-law, Mr. Martin, of West Lynne, had a slight stroke of paralysis, which deprived him entirely of the power of speech. The doctor was sent for, and Mr. Radiger got so excited at not being able to speak that he made a fearful effort to articulate, and to the surprise of every one he regained the use of his tongue as suddenly as he had lost it. He was much better at last accounts.

A correspondent of the St. John Globe warns intending emigrants to Manitoba not to leave their comfortable homes too early, for they know not what is before them in Winnipeg. The cost of living is enormous, and he advises them, if they will go, to bring tents with them or abundance of money to pay the exorbitant charges levied on strangers. Of the land boom he says: "There is, no doubt, large amounts of money being made in land, but it is, in many instances, only for speculative purposes."

A Winnipeg correspondent writes: One curious result of the land fever is the number of real estate offices. The papers have spoken of 200; I should think there were fully that or more. Literally, about every second floor on Main street is a real estate office, and there are often four or five in a row or in the same building. Most of them are doing some business, and some of them are making lots of money. They all charge a commission of 2 1/2 per cent, not on the amount of cash in the transaction, but on the total amount of the sale, so that it is no uncommon thing for an office to make \$2,000, \$3,000 or \$4,000 in one day by one or two big sales. The amount of business done in the registry office is immense. During the high pressure of a few weeks ago it is said they received on some days over 100 instruments to register at \$2 each, besides other business.

From Minnedosa, N. W. T., a correspondent writes: There has been splendid weather here this winter, bright and sunny, scarcely any storms, no very hard frosts and good sleighing. There is a great boom in town lots and real estate generally all over the country, and Minnedosa is no exception to the rule. \$48,000 changed hands in town lots here last season. The markets here are rather dull. Wheat, 60c. to 70c.; oats, 55c.; barley, 55c. There is only one buyer of wheat, and consequently he gives what he likes. Cattle and horses, like our land, have risen greatly in value. It takes \$200 to buy a good horse. Good oxen are worth \$300 a yoke, and it is a very poor cow you can buy under \$50. There are scarcely any sheep in the country. Dogs are plentiful and cheap.

CLAREMONT, the future residence of Prince Leopold, is being thoroughly overhauled, the drainage is to be put in perfect order, and some structural alterations will be made in the interior of the mansion. The fine ball-room facing the lawn is being converted into a drawing-room. This is the chamber in which mass was celebrated during the tenure of the French family—Louis Philippe, Queen Marie Amelie and the Orleans Princesses.

LOVE AND SUICIDE.

The Romance of a Belle of Niagara Falls.

SAD END OF A BEAUTY.

A Niagara Falls despatch says: A sad romance, connecting the history of one who was once the leading belle of this village, has been told for the past week. Amelia Taylor, the daughter of a storekeeper at Niagara Falls, was ten years ago the favorite of many suitors. She was then but 17, beautiful, and endowed with a classical education, combined with rare musical accomplishments. Her life was relieved of the dreary monotony of country life by the eager attentions of the beaux of the village. She was petite in form, but graceful and well developed, with an honest, open face and blue eyes which indicated firmness of purpose and character and passionate temperament. She was born in Bitford, Lancashire, England, and inherited ambitious and energetic traits of character, and down to her death her life was one of many sacrifices. Among the suitors for her hand was one Charles Wilson, a handsome, rollicking young fellow, the son of a wealthy grocer and a respected citizen here. She showed him so much favor that the gossips intimated that their fortunes would be united some day, but fate ordained a different future for them.

Charles Wilson's parents were rich and proud, and objected to the union on the ground that Amelia was far below their social, and positively forbade their marriage. Amelia's bright hopes vanished. Charles Wilson was true to his love, but respected the wishes of his parents and his two sisters, who are the belles of society at the Falls. Eight years ago Amelia, tiring of this village, and leaving her father, went to Rochester. While there she became acquainted with Dr. Peer, a dentist, and after a short courtship went to Drummondville with him, and was married. Her marriage fell heavily upon young Wilson, who yet loved Amelia, with whom, it is said, he corresponded after her marriage.

Mrs. Peer's first year of wedded life was indeed a happy one, but after that her husband became addicted to the company of fast women, which aroused the jealousy of his wife. Eighteen months after their nuptials, Dr. Peer was found in his rooms with a handkerchief covering his face saturated with chloroform. Before medical aid could be brought to bear he died. Mrs. Peer then came to Niagara Falls, where she remained for two years in her father's store as a clerk. But life here was too dreary for her, and she left for Rochester again, where she remained but a short time. After a time she went to New York and became a saleswoman in a large millinery house, and ultimately went into the millinery business for herself. Her new enterprise did not prosper, and on October 1st, 1880, she hired the Norfolk flats on the top floor of 45 West Thirtieth street, and took boarders. Among her guests was a well-known New York lawyer named W. J. Hardy, and Mr. Foster, Joseph S. Greenfield, E. Grant and Miss Deering, members of the Bijou Opera House Company. On the night of February 15th, 1883, Mrs. Peer seemed in good spirits, and nobody noticed any despondency. Mr. Hardy had just returned from a trip south, and during his absence Mrs. Peer had filled up her house with boarders, the hostess herself occupying Mr. Hardy's room. About 8 o'clock on the night above mentioned Mr. Hardy stepped into the dining room to tell Mrs. Peer of his trip, when she exclaimed, "Don't come near me, for my breath is disagreeable. I have taken rat poison." Mr. Hardy smelled phosphoreous, but he paid no attention to Mrs. Peer's remarks, not having any idea that she had taken enough to do any harm. Towards midnight she was seized with violent pains, and despite every effort of two physicians she died about 5 o'clock on the morning of February 16th. Coroner Brady took charge of the case, and discovered that Mrs. Peer had purchased poison ostensibly for rats, and had playfully remarked to her servant that it was not injurious to human beings, and pointed to the label as proof of her assertion. Word was sent to her friends here, and her father went to New York for the body. Mrs. Peer was buried last Sunday from the Presbyterian Church, Rev. Messrs. Gordon and Thompson officiating. Charles Wilson, when he heard of Mrs. Peer's death, was stricken with grief, and was one of the principal mourners at the funeral. Since the death of Mrs. Peer he has apparently lost all interest in business, and has become despondent and reckless.

Mr. Proctor's play-day theory of a menacing comet has caused alarm in England too. The Bishop of Manchester recently preached a sermon on the portentous hypothesis and pointed out remarkable Biblical evidences of its probability. This alarming prophecy, just now published, it may be worth while to recall, was one of Mr. Proctor's lectures delivered in this country last year. Assuming that there was imminent danger, the preachers of a Western town tried in vain to convince the wicked of coming doom, and when Mr. Proctor visited the town he was asked to explain the celestial situation. He did explain to the relief of the sinful that it was a pretty speculation, but not probable enough to be allowed to interfere with marrying and giving in marriage, and a short time afterwards he married a lady of the town.

A Lady's Experience.

Mrs. T. A. Gist, No. 1204 Walnut street, Philadelphia, Pa., writes: "I had inflammatory rheumatism very badly. In one foot and ankle it seemed to have taken hold with the determination to stay some time; and the morning I obtained the St. Jacobs Oil I could not put my foot down to the floor, even for an instant. I used it that evening for the first time, and the next morning for the second time, and that afternoon put my foot down for several minutes. On Sunday following I could stand up and walk a few steps. On Tuesday could walk about my room, and went down stairs by holding on to the banisters. Now I can walk quite well, and there is very little pain left. Just think! one bottle and a half and I am almost free from pain. It is a wonderful medicine."

TEA TABLE GOSSIP.

—The smallest electoral district in the Dominion is that which sends the poetic Plumb to Parliament—Niagara town and township—which contains 3,445 inhabitants.

—Rev. J. Kirkman points out that i "Shakespeare" the actual suicide is of small account compared with the mental conflict that leads up to it, and he shows how many who contemplate suicide in Shakespeare's pages do not commit the deed.

—"How dare you appear before me in such a condition, sir?" she exclaimed. "It's aesthetic," he replied. "What do you mean, sir?" asked the wife. "You gave a little blow-out the other evening, didn't you, that you said was a very consummate affair?" "I did," she replied; "but what has that to do with your drunken orgies?" "Well," said the man "I've been having a little toot, too."

—A modest declaimer—The Professor (opening his wife's prayer book by chance): "With all my worldly goods I thee endow! Why, when we married, Maria, I hadn't a penny to bless myself with, let alone to endow you!" Maria: "No, my love; but you had a magnificent intellect, and endowed me with that—" The Professor: "No, I didn't, Maria."

—It is said that a man when covered with snow will not freeze, but on the contrary will sleep very comfortably. When obliged to spend a winter night in an economical hotel, where no bed except the landlord's has more than one blanket, this is a good thing to remember. Shove the bedstead up to an open window and let the snow drift in.

—Things one would rather have left unsaid—Nervous Person (speaking at last to his neighbor): "Do you know who that remarkably ugly person is just opposite—talking to the black-haired lady, you know—um—oh?" Neighbor—"That, sir is my brother!" Nervous Person—"Yes? I—I beg your pardon—I—I—stupid of me—not to have seen the family likeness—a—a—" (Collapses and disappears.)

NEVER SUSPECTED IT.
A letter on the table lies;
I do not recognize the hand,
And yet my heart is throbbing, and
There's joy-light in my yearning eyes.

Is it from mother, old and gray,
Or from the little trusting maid
Whose heart I won before I strayed
Out to the mountains, leagues away?

Before I break the seal, I press
My lips upon the envelope,
And oh! a boundless wealth of hope
Is lavished in that soft caress.

Peace, fluttering heart! Oh, soul, sit still!
Why should my trembling frame recoil?
My letter comes from Bridget Doyle;
It is—it is my laundry bill!

—Senator Voorhes, of the United States, has a remedy for rheumatism, which, as he hasn't patented it, may as well be widely advertised. He says: "I have cured myself of rheumatic gout by a simple remedy—taking lemon juice in warm water twice or three times per day. Consequently, I am able to do what I have not done for years—walk from my lodging to the capitol and back, a matter of four miles, every day, and outstrip the young fellows who go with me."

After all the weary waiting,
After all these doubts and fears,
Though hope's flowers have well-nigh faded
In the frosts of fleeting years,
There will come a radiant dawning,
Lit by joy's long-hidden sun,
When the longings of a lifetime
And our waiting will be done.

No more waiting, no more doubting,
Love's fruition ours at last,
In that sunny, happy present
We'll forget the cheerless past.
Love will light the gloomy pathway
Where the lowering shadows fall,
And our hearts will cling the closer
To each other after all.

On the 31st of December there had been in all 62,331 notices served under the Irish Land Act. Nearly half this number, 29,892, had come from Ulster; the highest number in any county, 5,692, had come from Tyrone, which recently inflicted so severe a defeat on the Land League nominees. In Connaught there had been 16,246 notices, in Munster 11,057, and in Leinster 4,556. During January, notices were coming in at the rate of 400 a day.

WEATHER--OR NOT.

We admire the philosophy of the unfortunate man, who, when everything had been swept away, said, "Well, there'll be weather and taxes left, at any rate." Alas! weather is the "yellow dog" of all subjects; everyone thinks it his special right to try to better the weather, and huris his anathemas against "Old Probabilities," and all who endeavor to assist him in regulating the weather. The following communication is from Prof. Tice, of St. Louis, Mo., the renowned meteorologist and weather prophet of the West. It does not discuss the weather but something of more importance to those who suffer with that painful malady he speaks of. "The day after concluding my lectures at Burlington,



Iowa, on the 21st of December last, I was seized with a sudden attack of neuralgia in the chest, giving me excruciating pain and almost preventing breathing. My pulse, usually 80, fell to 25; intense nausea of the stomach succeeded, and a cold, clammy sweat covered my entire body. The attending physician could do nothing to relieve me. After suffering for three hours, I thought—as I had been using St. JACOBS OIL with good effect for rheumatic pains—I would try it. I saturated a piece of flannel, large enough to cover my chest, with the Oil, and applied it. The relief was almost instantaneous. In one hour I was entirely free from pain, and would have taken the train to fill an appointment that night in a neighboring town, had my friends not dissuaded me. As it was, I took the night train for my home, in St. Louis, and have not been troubled since.