

Legislature of Ontario.

Globe 11

FRIDAY, Jan. 10.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

From inhabitants of the township of Wolfe Island, praying that no charter be granted to the Licensed Victuallers' Association.

The following petitions, to the same effect, were also presented:—

From inhabitants of the village of Nottawa.

From inhabitants of the township of Dummer.

From inhabitants of the village of Kincardine.

From inhabitants of the town of Elawatka.

From inhabitants of the township of Euphemias.

From inhabitants of the township of Beckwith.

From inhabitants of the township of Tilbury West.

From inhabitants of the township of Marmora.

From inhabitants of the townships of Morris and Turabury.

From certain inhabitants of the township of Elgin, praying for the extension of the Erie and Niagara Railway.

Also, from certain inhabitants of Kent, to the same effect.

From the Erie and Niagara Railway Company, praying an Act to extend their line.

From the Corporation of the township of Montague, praying a reduction of the qualification of voters.

From the municipality of the township of Elmsley, praying a grant to build a bridge.

From the Municipal Corporation of the county of Peel, praying that an Act be passed authorising the return of certain moneys from the county of York.

From the Reeve and Council of the township of Niagara, praying the extension of the Erie and Niagara railway.

From George Macbeth, praying for the construction of a railway.

From the township of Kenyon, praying amendments to the Act imposing a tax on dogs.

From the Canadian Land and Emigration company, asking for an Act to separate the townships of Harcourt and Burton from the united townships of Burleigh, Anstruther, Chandos, Cardiff, Harcourt and Burton.

From residents in vicinity of the proposed Buckhorn Road, praying the construction of that road.

From the residents of the town of Guelph, praying an Act of incorporation.

From Austin Burke, praying an Act to confirm a conveyance.

From W. Myles and others, praying an investigation into the conduct of W. Taylor and J. Adair.

From the county of Middlesex respecting common schools.

From the county of Middlesex respecting the assessment laws.

From the corporation of Middlesex respecting jurors and juries.

From the corporation of Middlesex respecting houses of industry and refuge.

ELECTION PETITIONS.

When the time for receiving petitions came, the clerk read out the petition presented against the return of Mr. Gibbons, and the Speaker put the question, shall this question be received.

Mr. BLAKE said he desired to call the attention of the House to the fact that the petition had not been endorsed with the name of the person presenting it, in accordance with the rules of the house, and it could not be received in that way.

Hon. Atty.-Gen. McDONALD said that could not alter the law of the land.

Mr. BLAKE quite agreed with the Atty.-General. But he (Mr. Blake) was equally aware that certain petitions were deemed election petitions. The law of the land did not provide for the manner in which such petitions were to be presented, but the rules of the House did. Under the circumstances it would be better to postpone the reception

of the petition before the House till another day.

Sir HENRY SMITH suggested that perhaps the gentleman who had introduced it would come forward and obviate the difficulty by endorsing it.

Mr. COYNE said he had presented it, and, having obtained leave of the House, went forward to the clerk's table and endorsed it.

Mr. BLAKE did not know that that would remove the difficulty.

Hon. Atty.-Gen. McDONALD stated that the practice of Parliament in such cases was that the member should be allowed to endorse the Bill. He did not think any rule of the House could at all alter the validity of the petition got up according to the requirements of the Act of Parliament.

Mr. BLAKE explained that he did not say the petition before the House was not an election petition, or that the House could require it to contain more than the statute; but what he did say was that the house having made a general order with respect to all petitions, the question arose whether this petition had been properly presented within the stipulated time. Under ordinary circumstances, endorsement would no doubt answer every purpose required; but this petition not having been presented in proper form, within the first fourteen sitting days of the house, its reception ought, he thought, to be delayed.

The petition was ultimately allowed to lie over.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD brought up the report of the select committee appointed to strike the standing committees of the house. The committee recommended that the following committees be struck:—

COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS.

Hon. Mr. Wood, Messrs. Barber, Beatty, Boulton, Carnegie, Clarke, Clemens, Cook, Corby, Coyne, Ferrier, Finlayson, Fraser, Gow, Greeley, Luton, Matchett, McGill, McKim, McLeod, Oliver, Paxton, Read, Rykert, Secord, Sinclair, Smith (Kent), Smith (Leeds), Strange, Springer, Swinarton, Wallis, Wigle and Wilson.—34.

COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS.

Hon. [Attorney-General McDonald, Hon. Messrs. Cameron, Carling, Wood and Richards; Messrs. Beatty, Christie, Cockburn, Coyne, Craig (Glengarry), Cumberland, Currie, Ferguson, Fraser, Gow, Graham (Hastings), Hays, Lyon, McCall (Norfolk), McDougall, McKellar, McLeod, McMurrich, Perry, Rykert, Scott (Ottawa), Shaw, Sinclair, Smith (Frontenac), Trow and Williams (Hamilton)—31.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS.

Hon. Messrs. Macdonald, Carling, and Cameron; Messrs. Blake, Boyd, Coyne, Craig (Russell), Cumberland, Evans, Eyre, Galbraith, Gibbons, Hooper, Lauder, Lount, Lyon, Montleth, McDougall, Oliver, Pardee, Rykert, Scott (Grey), Scott (Ottawa), Smith (Frontenac), Smith (Middlesex), Williams (Durham)—26.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

Hon. Messrs. Macdonald, Cameron, Richards, Messrs. Baxter, Blake, Boyd, Christie, Colquhoun, Crosby, Evans, Ferguson, Fitzsimmons, John Graham (York), Hays, Cooper, Montleth, McCall (Elgin), McKellar, McMurrich, Pardee, Paton, Sexton, Sinclair, Smith (Frontenac), Smith (Leeds and Grenville), Springer, Supple and Tett—29.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD seconded by Hon. Mr. Wood, in order to expedite business, moved that the report be adopted forthwith.

Mr. McKELLAR said it was usual to let such reports lie over for a couple of days that members might have an opportunity of examining them, and any member might at once, if he saw proper, object to the adoption of the report. But, with a view to expedite business it might be well to adopt it. The committee had gone over the list very carefully and endeavoured to distribute the members on the various committees with an eye to their efficiency; and the probability was that when hon. gentlemen examined the list at their leisure, they would approve of it. But there was one committee not on that list which he would like to have seen there—viz.: the committee on contingencies. Government had, however, given the assurance that they had a general policy to submit to the house for the government of the employees and auditing of accounts; and, beyond question, it was absolutely necessary that they should have some authority for auditing the contingencies of the house—which had hitherto been done by the con-