

Legislature of Ontario.

WEDNESDAY, January 15

The speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. PARDEE—Of the Agricultural Society of the Township of Brook, praying for an amendment to the Agricultural law.

By Mr. J. S. SMITH—Of Archibald Bell for an Act to admit him as an Attorney-at Law.

By Mr. SCOTT (Grey)—Of the Corporation of the Town of Owen Sound, praying for an amendment to the Municipal Corporations Act of 1866.

By Mr. SMITH (Kent)—Of the Reeve and Council of the Township of Raleigh for an extension of the Erie and Niagara Railway.

By Mr. WILSON—Of the Reeve and Council of the Township of Townsend for the extension of the Erie and Niagara Railway.

By Mr. R. W. SCOTT—Of the French Canadian Institute of Ottawa praying aid.

By Mr. McCALL—Of certain inhabitants of the County of Norfolk, praying for the repeal of 30th Vic., cap. 122, incorporating the Long Point Company.

By Mr. LOUNT—Of certain residents of the Muskoka Settlement, respecting the obstruction of Lake Couchiching, and praying aid.

By Mr. Lyon—of H. O. Burritt and others, praying to be incorporated under the name of "The Royal Canadian Insurance Company."

By Mr. Williams (Hamilton)—of certain inhabitants of the county of Wentworth, praying that sections 73, 259, 254, 258, and sub section of 249 of the municipal Act of last session be amended.

By Mr. Swinarton—of inhabitants of the county of Cardwell for amendments in the municipal Act.

By Mr. Williams, (Hamilton)—of certain inhabitants of the city of Hamilton, that no charter be granted to the Licensed Victuallers' Association.

By Mr. Blake—of certain inhabitants of the county of Bruce, with the same prayer.

By Mr. Corby—of certain inhabitants of the township of Thurlow, with the same prayer.

By Mr. Fraser—of certain inhabitants of the town of Cobourg, with the same prayer.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

Sir HENRY SMITH said it had been announced the other day that members were to have the franking privilege to the fullest extent. But he had heard from the hon. gentlemen all around him that this did not now exist. He held in his hand a letter from a gentleman to whom he had sent a letter franked. He wrote that the postmaster at Kingston charged him an extra fee of 7 cents, alleging that members had no right to frank a letter. It was annoying, when they wrote to a gentleman soliciting information, to get a letter stating he had to pay extra postage.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD—Did you post the letter here?

Sir HENRY SMITH—Yes.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said he had made inquiry, and was informed that every letter posted here was franked with the post-office stamp, which every postmaster must regard as prepayment. There must be a fault somewhere, and the Government would make every effort to have it rectified.

Mr. LYON said he held in his hand the covers of a letter and newspaper returned to him; both bore the impress of the stamp of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, but they were charged postage, the party to whom they were addressed being informed by the Ottawa postmaster that they came to him from the Toronto post office, debited unpaid; the fault must be with the Toronto post office.

Hon. Mr. McMURRICH asked what was the extent of the franking privilege; he had

hitherto only franked such letters as he had sent to his constituents; had he a right to frank his private correspondence elsewhere?

Hon. J. S. McDONALD—Yes.

Hon. Mr. McMURRICH—But not business letters?

Hon. J. S. McDONALD—As you please; it has not been usual to discriminate between business letters and others.

Mr. GRAHAM (Hastings) said he had received a letter having 20 cents in stamps upon it, and his correspondent informed him that the postmaster refused to forward the letter unless it was prepaid.

Mr. R. W. SCOTT thought the Government should come to an understanding on the subject with the Postmaster General, instead of dealing with the Toronto post office.

After some further conversation,

Hon. J. S. McDONALD promised that he would take immediate steps, by communicating with the Postmaster-General, to have the matter placed on a satisfactory footing.

A CORRECTION.

Mr. BLAKE stated that in the Votes and Proceedings, his name did not appear in the vote on Mr. McKellar's motion. He had voted with the yeas.

The correction was ordered to be made.

STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. RYKERT presented the second report of the Standing Orders Committee. The committee reported that they had found the notices for the following petitions correct:—Of the Municipal Corporation of the County of Peterborough for an Act legalising certain surveys in the township of Harvey and Barleigh; of the Canadian Land and Emigration Company to separate Harcourt and Braton from certain other townships. The petition of the Toronto Young Men's Association for incorporation, they considered, was not of a nature requiring notice.

Mr. RYKERT moved that the report be concurred in. Carried.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. GREELEY presented the second report of the Printing Committee. They recommended that, as regarded Private Bills, two additional copies should be printed for each member, and twenty-five for the promoters of the bill. He moved that the report be concurred in.

Mr. McLEOD asked when the Premier was to redeem the pledge which he gave some years ago, that, when the French language was ignored in Parliamentary proceedings, he would have the Gaelic introduced to take its place. (Laughter). He hoped the honourable gentleman, as the representative of one of the old Highland clans, would do justice to the representatives of the Gaelic population.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said the matter had not yet been decided upon. It was still under consideration. (Laughter). His only difficulty was that, if the language spoken by Adam and Eve was introduced here, it might be thrown away. (Laughter).

The motion was then agreed to.

RULES OF THE HOUSE.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD reported a series of rules and regulations for the proceedings of the house, from the special committee appointed to frame them. He moved that the report be carried in. Carried.

ELECTION FRAUDS.

Mr. BLAKE said he would, in accordance with his motion yesterday, move the consideration of the petition of W. Niles and others, praying investigation into the conduct of Wm. Taylor, (late a candidate for the representation of one of the ridings of Middlesex, and also Clerk of the Council of the township of London), and John Adair. The charge against them was tampering with the assessment roll of the constituency in question, and putting thereon the names of a number of supporters of Mr. Taylor and Mr. Crowl Wilson. This was a matter which, as it affected the purity of election and the privileges of the house, demanded the immediate attention of the house.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD did not rise to object to the motion; but as that petition had only just been read and members were unacquainted with it, it would be well to print it for the use of members.

Mr. BLAKE had no objection. He had no desire to adopt any other than a reasonable course in the matter, and would move,