

# Legislature of Ontario.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock.

## PETITIONS

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Corby—From inhabitants of the township of Hungerford, praying that no charter be granted to the Licensed Victuallers' Association.

By Mr. McGill—From inhabitants of the village of Oshawa, with the same prayer.

By Mr. McGill—From inhabitants of Whitby, with the same prayer.

By Mr. Luton—From inhabitants of the township of Bayham, praying that the Act to legalize by-law 116 of that township be not passed.

By Mr. Luton—From the Township Council of Bayham, with the same prayer.

By Mr. Swinarton—From W. H. Stewart and 86 inhabitants of Orangeville, praying a charter for the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway.

By Mr. Ferguson—From the Corporation of the Township of Mono, with the same prayer.

By Hon. Mr. McMurrich—From L. Moffatt and others, praying that parties doing inland marine insurance business shall make deposits.

By Mr. Carnegie—From John McNabb and others, praying the establishment of an Ophthalmic Hospital in Ontario.

By Mr. Matchett—From E. C. Martin and others, with the same prayer.

By Mr. Graham—From W. Hope and others, with the same prayer.

By Mr. McCall—From Elliott Grassett and others, with the same prayer.

By Hon. Mr. Cameron—From the Bishop of Toronto, with the same prayer.

By Hon. Mr. Cameron—From Dr. O'Dea and sixty others of the medical profession—students and dentists—with the same prayer.

By Mr. Fraser—From John Beatty, M.D., and others, with the same prayer.

By Mr. Strange—From the Sisters of the Hotel Dieu, Kingston, praying a continuation of their grant.

By Mr. Strange—From the Corporation of Kingston, praying for power to sell certain lands.

By Hon. Mr. Cameron—From Henry Covert, praying that power may not be granted to the Cobourg, Peterboro', and Marmora Railway and Mining Company to extend their railway to Chemung Lake.

By Hon. Mr. Cameron—From the Peterboro' and Chemung Lake Railway Company, with the same prayer.

By Mr. Evans—From the County Council of Middlesex, praying certain amendments to the Agricultural Bill.

By Hon. Mr. Carling—From inhabitants of London, praying amendments to the Municipal Act relating to hotel and saloon keepers.

## SOUTH HURON ELECTION.

Sir HENRY SMITH reported, from the general committee on elections, that they had appointed Monday, 10th February, at 11 o'clock, for choosing a select election committee to try the petition complaining of an undue return and election for South Huron.

## ASSESSMENT ACT AMENDMENTS.

Mr. RYKERT presented the first report of the committee on Municipal and Assessment laws, as follows:—

"Your committee in entering upon their duties, determined upon addressing a circular to the several municipalities in Ontario, asking for suggestions, and have already received replies from a very large number.

"Your committee being fully aware of the impossibility of amending the Assessment and Municipal Act in every respect, so as to give general satisfaction, during the present session, decided upon recommending the amendment of only such clauses as seemed absolutely necessary, believing that it would be better to receive such suggestions as might be offered by the several municipalities, and present them to the country in some

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tangible shape after the close of Parliament, in order that members might be prepared at the next session of Parliament to carefully revise and consolidate the Acts.

"They would recommend that a Bill be passed immediately, embodying the amendments approved of by your committee, which said amendments they beg leave to report by bill.

"All of which is respectfully submitted,  
"J. C. RYKERT,  
"Chairman."

## BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:—

Mr. PERRY—Bill to grant certain powers to the Oxford Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON—Bill to grant certain powers to the Toronto Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Mr. RYKERT—To amend the Assessment Act of Upper Canada. Second reading on Monday.

Mr. FERGUSON—To legalize a certain by-law and debentures of the county of Simcoe.

Mr. CORBY—Bill to legalize the assessment rolls of the town of Belleville from 1852 to 1866, inclusive.

Mr. BLAKE—Bill to incorporate the Royal Canadian Yacht Club.

Mr. SCOTT (Ottawa)—Bill to incorporate the Temporal Committee of St. Andrew's Church in the city of Ottawa, in connection with the Church of Scotland, and to vest certain property in the committee.

## REGISTRY LAW.

Mr. SEXTON moved for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Act respecting Registrars and Registry offices, and the registration of instruments in Upper Canada.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD—The hon. gentleman knows I have introduced a Bill of that nature.

Hon. Mr. WOOD—The object of this Bill is merely to permit cities and counties to agree among themselves as to the proportions each shall bear of the expense of drawing up the indices under the Act.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD—I have no objection to it.

The Bill was then read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Thursday.

## INTERPRETATION OF THE STATUTES.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD moved the second reading of the bill respecting the Interpretation of the Statutes. The hon. gentleman explained that it was merely a re-enactment of the old Act. The bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to committee of the whole on Tuesday next.

## HEIR AND DEVISEE COURTS.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD moved the second reading of the bill respecting Heir and Devisee Courts.

Mr. BLAKE said he cordially approved of the principle of the measure. It was a most excellent one; but required a little recasting, which he would wish to discuss privately with the hon. Attorney General.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said he would be happy to receive the suggestions of the hon. member. The bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to committee of the whole on Tuesday.

## FREE GRANTS.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS moved the second reading of his bill respecting free grants to settlers.

Mr. McKELLAR thought that as the bill had only just been distributed it would be best to postpone the further consideration of the bill till Tuesday next.

Mr. Blake took a similar view.

Mr. RYKERT thought that as the principle of the measure had been admitted, there was no need for delay in the second reading.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said that as the matter had been already fully discussed, the delay was not called for.

Sir HENRY SMITH said it was owing to the circumstance of the Government having introduced the Bill by resolutions that they were met at this stage by the request for