

# Legislature of Ontario

FRIDAY, Feb. 7.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

## PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Orcaby—From inhabitants of the township of Scarborough, praying that no charter be granted to the Licensed Victuallers.

By Mr. Blake—From inhabitants of the village of Lucknow, with the same prayer.

By Mr. Fraser—From inhabitants of Co. Georg, with the same prayer.

By Hon. Mr. McMurrich—From the County Council of York, with the same prayer, and also praying that no amendment be made to the Municipal Act permitting the sale of intoxicating liquors between seven o'clock on Saturday night and Monday morning.

By Hon. Mr. McMurrich—From the County Council of York, praying amendments in the Municipal and Assessment laws.

By Hon. Mr. McMurrich—From the County Council of York, praying that provision be made for the payment of special juries.

By Hon. Mr. McMurrich—From the County Council of York, praying amendments in the law so as to prevent suitors from laying the venue in civil cases in the county of York unless the cause of action arose in said county, or unless either the plaintiff or defendant resided in said county, except in certain cases.

By Mr. Oliver—From the Trustees of the First Baptist Church of Lobo, praying for power to convey certain lands in fee.

By Mr. McGill—From the corporation of Whitby, praying that the petition of certain inhabitants of that town to reduce the limits, be not granted.

By Mr. McDougall—From inhabitants of the townships of Brudenell, Radcliffe, Lyn-dock and Reglan, praying a sum of money to repair a road.

By Mr. Wigle—From the County Council of Essex, praying amendments to the Agricultural Bill.

By Mr. Monteth—From the township council of Wallace, paying the payment of moneys now accruing to them from the "Land Improvement Fund."

By Mr. Monteth—From the township Council of Logan, praying amendments to the Assessment Law.

By Mr. Eyre—From inhabitants of the village and township of Brighton, praying amendments to the new Game Law.

## WELLINGTON, GREY AND BRUCE RAILROAD.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD, from the railway committee, reported the Bill to amend the Act incorporating the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway, with amendments.

The principle amendment made by the committee, was striking out the 6th clause, which authorized the county Councils to issue debentures aiding the undertaking, in lieu of those issued by township and village municipalities, or to guarantee the township and village debentures, without its being necessary to submit by laws for that purpose for the assent of the electors.

## THE SHEEP ACT.

Mr. BOYD presented a report from the committee on the Sheep Act. The committee reported unfavourably to Mr. Ferguson's Bill (No. 10) to amend the Act imposing a tax on dogs, and for the better protection of sheep, and reported a Bill of their own for the same purpose.

Mr. BOYD asked leave to introduce the said Bill.

Sir HENRY SMITH asked the hon. member to explain. Was it proposed to repeal the dog-tax entirely? It was very unpopular through the country; he believed the best protection for sheep were good farm dogs.

Mr. BOYD said it had been felt to be a very great hardship for municipalities which did not desire the Act to be in operation within their limits, to be compelled to enforce it. This bill made it optional for municipalities to put the law in operation within their limits or not, at they thought proper.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said if a township adopted the Act, and the adjacent townships did not, it would be a hardship on that township to be overrun by the dogs of the neighbouring townships. It seemed to him that the Act should be done away with altogether, or left as it was.

Mr. BOYD said he would be prepared on behalf of the Committee to discuss the matter with his hon. friend at the second reading.

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

## INTERPRETATION OF THE STATUTES.

The House went into Committee of the Whole, on motion of Hon. J. S. McDonald, on the Bill for the Interpretation of the Statutes, Mr. McLeod in the chair.

Sections 1 and 4, relating to the use of Her Majesty's name in laws passed by this Legislature, were allowed to stand; also, some other subsequent sections, in which Her Majesty's consent was alluded to.

On section 5,

Sir HENRY SMITH asked whether it was intended that an Act might be repealed before receiving the Royal assent.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD replied in the affirmative. The measure would, of course, only be a Bill until it received the Royal assent.

In the 13th clause, it was moved to include Easter Monday among the holidays.

Hon. Mr. McMURRICH objected to Episcopal holidays being singled out. Roman Catholics and Presbyterians would also ask, perhaps, that their peculiar days be observed as holidays.

Mr. BOYD said they were only observing a time honoured custom by keeping up this holiday.

The suggestion that Easter Monday should be added to the holidays was ultimately adopted.

In clause 20, the words "other than the plaintiff or party interested," were objected to by Sir Henry Smith as being unnecessary.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said that if they did no good, they did no harm at all events, and might pass.

In relation to clause 24, respecting imprisonment where no special place is mentioned,

Sir HENRY SMITH inquired, if there were no goal in the county, would not the officer in the next county, under this clause, be obliged to receive the prisoners?

Hon. J. S. McDONALD replied that that would be the result.

Sir HENRY SMITH inquired if the warrant would, in that event, be sufficient?

Hon. J. S. McDONALD was understood to say that could be very readily remedied.

Clause 27 provided that "all appointments now or hereafter made by the Lieut. Governor shall remain in office during pleasure—unless otherwise expressed in their commissions or appointments."

This clause was objected to by Mr. Rykert, who said that he failed to find it in the old Act, although the Attorney-General had assured him it was there.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD still believed this clause was in the old Act.

Mr. BLAKE said he understood this clause to apply solely to appointments by the Lieutenant-Governor.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said this was the meaning of the Act. He proposed to abandon the last section of the clause, the words "unless otherwise expressed in their commissions or appointments."

The last section of clause 27 was accordingly struck out,

In sub section 10 of clause 41,

Mr. BLAKE suggested that unless the Premier contemplated having some of the printing done in Gaelic, he might strike out the words "English language." (Laughter).

The words objected to were struck out.

In subsection 13 of same clause, the word "white" sheepskin was struck out and "red" substituted.

Mr. BLAKE suggested that the alteration might be too expensive to suit the prevailing economy.

The several clauses having been adopted with amendments,

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said that as he had been asked respecting the Queen's Printership, he was either prepared to explain at once the policy of the Government in the matter, or else delay the explanation until the Estimates were brought down. (Cries of "defer, defer.") He would, then, defer his explanation.

Sir HENRY SMITH said that as this would be the first Act assented to, there would be, he apprehended, no disturbance of the order of the other measures.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said that would be the case, and added that some day next