

THURSDAY, Feb. 13.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

## SOUTH HURON ELECTION.

Mr. CLARKE presented the following report from the South Huron Election Committee:—

THURSDAY, Feb. 13.

Pursuant to the 82nd section of the Act respecting controverted Parliamentary Elections, your select committee, appointed to try the merits of the petition against the election and return for the South Riding of Huron, report to the house for its information the following resolution as adopted by them at their sitting this day:—

*Resolved*—That the preliminary objections on the part of the sitting member be delivered in writing to the petitioner's counsel before six o'clock this evening, and argued at the next sitting of the committee, and that all the lists of voters objected to, along with the answer to the petition, be filed at the sitting of this committee on Monday next.

## PRIVATE BILLS.

Sir HENRY SMITH, from the committee on Private Bills, reported, with reference to the Bill to confirm a survey by E. C. Caddy, and the Bill to reduce the limits of the town of Whitby, that they had found that the preambles were not proved.

## MUNICIPAL LAW AMENDMENT.

Mr. RYKERT presented the second report of the Municipal and Assessment committee as follows:—

Your Committee having determined upon making only such amendments in the Municipal Act as seemed to be immediately required, duly examined into the several petitions presented to your honourable house, and also carefully considered the various suggestions made, in answer to the circulars addressed to the municipalities.

They are of the opinion that a Bill should be passed this session embodying such amendments as have been approved of by them, which said amendments they beg leave to report by Bill.

## ABSTRACT OF AMENDMENTS.

Sub-section 5 of 26.—To provide for the erection and repair of Registry Office by county council when town withdraws from jurisdiction.

29. Amended so as to provide for separation of junior townships.

48. Amended so as to provide for senior county dividing assets after separation.

70 Mayors and Aldermen in cities.—Qualification.—Freehold, \$3,000. Leasehold, \$6,000.

73. Additional disqualifications of candidates.

75. As to non-payment of taxes by 16th December—repealed. Persons having income or a salary of \$600 allowed to vote on payment of taxes, &c.

76. VOTERS' QUALIFICATIONS. — Cities, \$500. Towns, \$300. Incorporated villages, \$200. Townships, \$100. Police villages, \$100.

80. Persons rated jointly to vote.

Sub-section 3, section 66.—Councillors.—Three in each ward instead of two.

88. Repealed, as it was opposed to section 66.

Sub-section 3, section 10.—No poll to be demanded.

Section 8 of 100.—No declaration of result of election required.

Sub-section 1 of section 101.—As to nomination of candidates where two electoral divisions.

Sub-section 4 of section 101.—Council to pass by-law fixing place for nomination where three electoral districts.

105. Clerk to preside at election of Mayor.

246. Councillors may act as Road Commission Superintendent, &c., and be paid the same as Councillors.

279. Additional powers conferred upon incorporated villages.

282. Proviso made as to clearing streams.

and creeks running through two or more municipalities.

296. Certain powers given to counties, over harbours, &c. Police Commissioners to control licenses of cabmen, &c., in cities.

397. Part of oath relating to Secret Societies struck out.

345. Counties and townships to have power to sell mineral rights in roads, &c.

413. As to Houses of Refuge.—Uniting counties and towns separated from counties.

Mr. RYKERT then introduced the said Bill. Second reading on Monday.

## SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS.

Mr. BOULTER inquired at what time it is the intention of the Government to open the Mineral and Crown Lands for sale.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said the Government could not give a distinct answer so this question, until they were in possession of more full information. He would say, however, that with regard to licenses for mineral lands, they intended to legislate by a Bill to be introduced this session.

## MINERAL LANDS OF LAKE SUPERIOR.

Mr. CUMBERLAND moved to refer all returns made to this house of Orders of Council and regulations relating to the sale and management of the mineral lands of Lake Superior to a special committee composed of Messrs. Richards, McKellar, Hays, Pardee, Lyon, Scott, (Grey), Boulter, Beatty, and the mover, with instructions to consider and report the effect and operation thereof. He said he had waited a considerable time for that exposition of their policy with reference to mineral lands, which he thought they had a right to expect from the Government. Nothing was further from his intention than to offer any embarrassment to his honourable friends on the Treasury benches. He was one of those who would give a most generous consideration for all their acts, and he repudiated altogether the notion that he was actuated by any other motive than the sincere desire to induce, to tempt, to attract them to some policy with regard to mineral lands, similar in liberality to the course they had taken with reference to agricultural lands. He hoped, in the course of this discussion, something more palpable would fall from the lips of his hon. friends than the answer just given to the member for Hastings. We stood in the presence of the orders in Council of July, 1866, which had all the force and effect of law—which, as he understood, had never been cancelled, but were maintained by the special provisions of the Confederation Act. These ought to govern the administration of the department with reference to the mineral lands to-day, unless it could be shown that they had been set aside. If there was any further delay there would ensue a loss of time certainly until the summer of 1869. Meanwhile, attracted by the discoveries, or alleged discoveries, in those regions, he apprehended large numbers of people would enter in the coming season, and any new regulations that might be initiated by the Government next year, would be just a year too late. As in California, British Columbia, Australia, Nevada, &c., the miners would make laws for themselves; and the Government would find that, in striving after the shadow, they would lose the substance; instead of its being open to them to establish regulations with a view to raising revenue for the Province, the Government would find themselves unequal to the introduction of laws, which, if attempted now, might be easily introduced. The policy of his hon. friends, with regard to agricultural lands, had received the ready sanction of this house, and would have received a still readier sanction, if it had been more liberal. He was curious to hear how they could justify a different policy with reference to mineral lands. Were we to see political economists stalking round this Pro-

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