

SIX DOLLARS PER ANNUM;

SINGLE NUMBERS 30c.

WHOLE NO. 5587

Legislature of Ontario.

THURSDAY, Feb. 20.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented :—

By Mr. Swinarton—From the Reeve and 95 inhabitants of Caledon against any Act of Incorporation being granted to the Licensed Victuallers' Association.

By Mr. Cookburn—From W. Eastland and others of Peterboro, with the same prayer.

BILLS PASSED.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed :—

No. 44, Overholding Tenants—Hon. Mr. Wood.

No. 50, Traction Engines—Mr. Cumberland. To the 13th clause of this Bill before its third reading, Mr. CUMBERLAND, with the consent of the House, added this proviso :—“ Provided always such works shall be performed to the satisfaction of the County Engineer or other officers appointed for that purpose by the Municipality within which such highway or the greater part thereof is situated.”

No. 49, Royal Canadian Insurance Company—Mr. Lyon.

COMMON LAW PROCEDURE.

On motion of Hon. J. S. McDonald that the report of the committee on the bill for the Amendment of Common Law Procedure,

Mr. McLEOD moved in amendment that the report be not now received, but that the report be referred back to committee, with instructions to expunge section 4 and the sub-section relating to sheriff's poundage.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD did not complain of hon. members making amendments at any stage, but would say that this subject of sheriff's fees had occupied the time of several committees of the Parliament of Canada and the result of their deliberations was embodied in the bill before the house. He thought it afforded the best solution of this question yet arrived at.

Mr. BLAKE said that on the second reading of the bill it was generally felt that sheriffs were placed by it in a position which they ought not to occupy. The remedy proposed by the bill was thought to be too favourable. But the amendment proposed to restrict the committee to cutting out these provisions altogether, leaving the law as it stood before. It was agreed generally that there was an evil here to be redressed. The Government had taken the responsibility of proposing a measure on the subject; and though their measure would not in his opinion meet the evil, still, having taken the responsibility they had done, the house ought to let the bill pass.

Mr. LAUDER hoped the amendment would carry. He could not understand how the sheriffs had come round the Government to obtain their support. At first the Attorney-General and the Government took strong ground against the sheriffs. Then the sheriffs united, pressure was brought to bear on the Government, and they were finally obliged to give way.

Mr. SHAW desired to ask the member for South Grey if he thought the law in its present state fair to sheriffs?

Mr. LAUDER replied that he did not. Owing to the Bankruptcy Act, these officials were now unfairly treated, but the remedy proposed by the Bill was not the right one. He was sorry to see the influence of the sheriffs so great in the house. Even the member for South Bruce did not seem to have escaped them. (Laughter).

Mr. BLAKE thought it was but due to the sheriffs that he should state that neither