

From the Township Council of Ashfield; by Mr. Beatty—From the Township Council of Stamford, praying that a school for the blind be erected; by Mr. Trow—from the Township Council of St. Mary's; by Mr. Lount—from the Municipal Council of Orillia; by Mr. Blake—from the Township Council of Kincardine.

Mr. Coyne—From Township Council of Mono, praying for the passing of an Act to annex the Township of Mono to the County of Peel; by Mr. Coyne—From the County Council of Peel, praying for an Act to annex the Township of Mono and the County of Peel; by Mr. Coyne—From Charles Armstrong and others, of Mono, praying for an Act to separate the township of Mono from the county of Simcoe and annexing it to the county of Peel.

Mr. McKellar—From Henry Jackson and others, of Kent, praying that no Act be passed to incorporate the Nazrey Institute.

Mr. Rykert—From the Town Council of St. Catharines, for certain amendments of the Assessment Act.

Mr. Greely—From A. Haight and others, of Newmarket, praying for the passing of an Act to amend the Act of Incorporation of the Friends' School, Bloomfield.

Hon. M. C. Cameron—From the City Council of Toronto, praying for certain amendments in the Assessment Law; also, from the Toronto Board of Trade.

Mr. Beatty—From the Village Council of Clifton, praying that no Act may pass to incorporate the St. Catharines, Thorold and Niagara Falls Macadamized Road Company.

Mr. Hays—From the Township Council of Ashfield, praying for the payment of arrears of the Land Improvement Fund.

Mr. Sutton—From Murdock McKenzie and others, praying for an Act to enable the Erie and Niagara Railway to extend their line; by Mr. Sutton—from Edward McCrone and others, of St. Thomas; by Mr. Sutton—from the Town Council of St. Thomas.

Mr. Currie—From Alex. McCutcheon and others, of Moss, praying for an Act to extend the Erie and Niagara line.

Mr. Spinger—From the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Company, praying for an Act to amend their Act of Incorporation.

Mr. Currie—From Donald McRae and others, of Eckford, praying for an Act to enable the Erie and Niagara Railway to extend their line.

THE STANDING ORDERS ON PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. RYKERT presented the sixth report of the Committee on Standing Orders, stating that the Committee had examined certain petitions in matters affecting private Bills, and found them according to rule. The Committee also asked that the rule of the House enacting that petitions cannot be received after the 24th November be set aside in relation to certain petitions, and asking also that this rule be suspended until Tuesday next.

On the presentation of the above report, Atty.-General MACDONALD contended that the Committee had no right to receive petitions in reference to Private Bills presented after the 24th November, and as they had no right to receive them, they had no right to report upon them. The time had been announced in every District paper and in the official Gazette, and there had been no motion made to enlarge it. There was no precedent for the House to commence a new term in which petitions could be received. If this rule were not sustained, he might enter a record, and his counsel might tell him that no opposition had been offered to it, and that he might return home. He might go home, but a complainant might, after that date come into court, and in his absence, might obtain a verdict against him. This would be the exact position in which promoters of Private Bills would stand, supposing the rule was to obtain. There was no precedent whatever for the course adopted, and the present was not the right time to adopt it. He would tell his hon. friend that these petitions could not be referred to his Committee, and he would call upon the House to stand by its rules and regulations, because it might be of service to hon. gentlemen's clients to have their petitions laid before the House; but the time might come when this would be turned round, and then those hon. members should have no right to complain. He wished to see the rules of the House carried out in their full integrity. If, in the Legislature of Quebec they had recently refused to enlarge the time, and were determined that the strict rule of the House should be carried out, there was no principle of fair play in opening a new term without any warrant. He did not think that the members of the House were prepared to trample on their rules.

Mr. RYKERT said the hon. gentleman had read him, as Chairman of the Committee on Standing Orders, a severe lecture; but he thought if he had listened to the Report he would have seen that he had gone on under an entirely wrong impression. The Committee had not considered any petitions presented after the 24th of November, and all those which they had recommended to be received had been presented in proper time. Some of them in the earlier part of November. The Committee asked that petitions should be received later. He had as great a desire to maintain the rules of the House as the hon. member, but he did not like to be lectured when he did not, in fact, infringe at all upon the rules of the House. It was his duty to report the resolutions of the Committee, whom he had endeavoured to guide as far as he could in enforcing the rules of the House. Many petitions had been presented before the 24th Nov., and had appeared in the Official Journal, but the proof of the local notices had not been received. He was not prepared to say that the latter part of the report should be adopted, for that rested with the House.

Attorney-General MACDONALD repeated his objections to petitions being received after the time stated by the rules of the House.

Mr. SCOTT (Ottawa) was of opinion that the rules of the House should be adhered to as rigidly as proposed by the Attorney-General. There were some cases in which the rules of the House had been treated in a different

manner; and it was notorious that the rule with respect to the reception of petitions had been suspended more than any other rule, both in the old Parliament of Canada and other Legislatures. The House possessed the power to do so, and it was usually on the motion of the Chairman of the Private Bill Committee. He had placed a notice of motion to the effect of extending the time, and he had no idea that any single member of the House would object to it. The House would not be kept a day longer in session in consequence of the rule being suspended. He had never seen a member of any Canadian Government dictating to the House as had been attempted by the Hon. Attorney-General; the contrary policy had been generally the rule. But if there was to be such a rigid adherence to the rules in all cases, he would assist the hon. member to carry them out in their integrity. He believed the Leader of the House had no right to exercise his great influence to prevent legislation on private Bills. No one could be more willing to assist the Hon. Attorney-General in carrying on the business of the House, but when he overstepped his bounds, and attempted to interfere with the independence of the House, he (Mr. S.) would oppose him. In 1863, the hon. the present Attorney-General was in the House, and the time for receiving petitions for private Bills was extended, allowed to expire and renewed again by the hon. gentleman's colleague, the Hon. Mr. Dorion. (Laughter). If precedence was to be regarded, here was one applying to the present case. He (Mr. S.) could not understand why the Hon. Attorney-General was so bitterly opposed to it. He said he only desired to stand by the rules of the House, that the minority might be protected from the majority.

Mr. BLAKE said this was hardly the time to introduce this discussion. There had been no report from any Committee on private Bills, and there could therefore be no ground for the suspension. He agreed with the hon. Attorney-General that the regular mode of modifying the rules of the House should be followed. On this occasion it had not been followed, and the suspension should not be admitted.

After some further discussion,

Hon. Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD moved that this report be not now received, but be referred back to the Committee on Standing Orders, for the purpose of striking out that portion relating to the suspension of the rule. He referred to Mr. Todd's "Parliamentary Practice" to show how jealous the House had always been of any interference on the part of the Government in regard to private Bills. The only exceptions allowed were where private Bills were likely to injuriously affect the interests of the country.

The motion was carried.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time—

Mr. RYKERT—Act to authorize the St. Catharines, Thorold and Suspension Bridge Road Company to collect toll upon their road.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON—Bill to incorporate the Toronto Wharf and Warehouse Company.

Hon. Mr. CARLING—Act to confirm and legalize the sale and conveyance by the Church Society of the Diocese of Huron, of certain premises in the Town of Galt to Rev. Michael Browne, D.D.

Hon. Mr. CARLING—Act to authorize the Church Society of the Diocese of Huron to sell certain Church lands in the Town of Goderich.

Mr. CLARKE—Act to make the Benchers of the Law Society of Ontario elective by the Bar thereof.

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD said, though he did not object to the Bill itself, still he believed that due notice should have been given as provided by the rule relating to private Bills. The Law Society was an incorporated Company, and had a right to have due notice of this proposed change.

Mr. CLARKE said the Law Society was a public corporation, and this Bill was one which affected not only them, but the entire profession, and, through them, the people generally. It was, therefore, a public Bill, and required no notice to be given.

Mr. BLAKE said of course it was a public Bill, as anyone would find by referring to the Consolidated Statutes. He would like the hon. Attorney-General to point out a private Bill in the Consolidated Statutes.

Attorney-General MACDONALD admitted that it was a public measure, and the Bill was read a first time.

Mr. SCOTT (Grey) introduced an Act to authorize the Corporation of the Township of Collingwood in the County of Grey, to construct a harbour in said Township, and to impose and collect harbour dues, and for other purposes.

Mr. CURRIE—Act to empower and confirm certain sales of land made by the West Middlesex Agricultural Society. Referred to the Committee on private Bills.

PAYMENT OF JUDGES.

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on Friday next to consider a resolution "regarding the annual payment of a certain sum to each of the Judges of the Superior Courts, and to the Chief Justice of the Court of Error and Appeal in Ontario, as compensation for the services rendered by the said Judges in the said Circuit of Error and Appeal, and in the Heir and Devises Commission." He explained that the salaries at present paid to these Judges were insufficient to compensate them for their labours. It would be readily admitted on all sides that the Legislature of this Province had a perfect right to reward those Judges who discharged the duties and functions of other than the Superior Courts. It was true that they were not permitted to reward them for services performed in the Superior Courts; but they were not prevented from rewarding them for services performed in other Courts. It was well known that those gentlemen performed more labour than was compatible with their strength or time, and it would be only fair to compensate them for the services they rendered.

Mr. BOYD had no objection to Judges of the Superior Courts receiving larger salaries if their pay could be increased without infringing the laws of the country. He was aware

that they were a hard worked class of men, and that their salaries were not adequate compensation for the services they rendered; but it seemed to him that the measure of his honourable friend was more an evasion of the law than anything else.

Mr. BLAKE said the present was hardly the proper time to consider the matter. He was sincerely anxious to go with the hon. Attorney-General on his motion if he could establish his position.

The motion was then carried.

JURORS.

Mr. GREELY moved that the House should, on Wednesday, resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, and consider a Resolution to provide for the payment of Justices summoned to assist in the drafting of panels of Jurors. Carried.

PETITIONS ON PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. SCOTT (Ottawa) proposed that the time for presenting Petitions for Private Bills be extended till Thursday next, and that the time for introducing Private Bills be extended till Tuesday next, and that the Rule of this House on that subject be in the meantime suspended. Carried.

MUNICIPAL LAWS.

Mr. CURRIE moved that the House should go into Committee on the following:

"1. That it is expedient to amend the Municipal Law, so that each Township may be divided into four wards, and the electors of each ward shall elect one Councillor. 2. That the electors of the whole Township shall elect one Reeve, and the Township Council of any Township, having the names of over one thousand Municipal Electors on the last revised assessment roll, shall elect one Deputy Reeve." His object was to simplify the Municipal Laws. In explaining the details of the measure, he said that the Municipal Law had invested the County Councils with too much power, and the bodies were too large. Their time was occupied with very trivial matters, and the time spent in discussion was more expensive than the repairs needed would cost. Petitions had been presented asking for the alterations he proposed. When the time came for election of the Council, the whole town became excited and questionable proceedings took place. It had also another bad effect in the election of Deputy Reeve occasionally clashing with the election of Reeve. The combinations formed had very often the effect of putting the wrong man in the place of Reeve. He was satisfied that his alteration would work satisfactorily. He wished the matter to be discussed fairly, and would have brought it forward before, only that at the first session a Municipal Law Committee was appointed, and at the end of that year the Government promised to consolidate the various amendments.

Mr. McCALL seconded.

Mr. PARDEE said it was very undesirable that the changes should be made as proposed. So far as he knew there had not been any petition presented to the House asking them to go back to ward elections. He thought if they could get a municipal law to remain on the statute book without alteration for some years, that it would be found to work well. He hoped the alterations proposed would not be accepted.

Mr. McCALL (Norfolk) made a few remarks in favour of the Bill, and

Mr. CURRIE having briefly replied, the motion was withdrawn.

THE NOVA SCOTIA QUESTION.

Mr. BAKE moved the following resolution:—1. "That a humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that she may be graciously pleased to cause a measure to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament, for the purpose of removing all colour for the assumption by the Parliament of Canada of the power to disturb the financial relations established by the British North America Act (1867), as between Canada and the several Provinces." In doing so, he said it was a necessary consequence and corollary of the resolutions which the House had passed that it should take steps for effecting its intention. In the course of the recent debate, the hon. member for Simcoe asked that if that resolution was carried that he (Mr. Blake) should pledge himself to produce this Address, and it was in pursuance of that resolution then adopted and of the pledge then given, that he now brought forward that Address. The amendment on the part of the Government was defeated by a very large majority; and upon the main motion being put, his hon. friends opposite had voted in favour of it. He should be very sorry to impugn the sincerity of that assent. He believed that it was cordially given, and that the feeling was a sound one. It might be true that the conviction was produced suddenly and in a moment of time, but he had no doubt it was produced. But, however sudden might be the conversion, he believed it would be permanent, and would remain. Having regard to the large majority upon this question, and to the vast interest involved, he would venture to make an appeal to all hon. friends, in order that it might not be said that the address passed unanimously. He had that desire because he believed first, that it would thus have more effect in the quarter to which it was directed; and seriously, he believed that a unanimous expression of the determination of the people of Ontario through their representatives in this Parliament assembled would be, of itself, if it wanted anything, a preventative of that power which might or might not exist, and the continuance of which by this Act they would solemnly resolve to be injurious to their best interests. He did not desire to recall any acrimonious feeling that might have been brought into the late debate; but he only desired to say that if there should seem to be a charge of inconsistency with reference to the conduct adopted by some members with regard to the 13th resolution that it was also adopted on the Ministerial benches. ("No.") Having adopted the resolution on that occasion, he did not anticipate that they would show a hostile front to the resolution he now submitted. He trusted that the explanations given by the Government might be so satisfactory to those of their supporters who voted against them as to convince them that they might vote in favour of the address, to carry out the import of a resolution which was carried by a majority larger than any majority that had

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 1.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions have been presented:—

Mr. McColl—From certain inhabitants of Yarmouth, praying that no charter be granted to Wm. McMaster and others to construct a Railway from Glencoe to Niagara River; by Mr. Richards—from certain inhabitants of the Town and Township of Niagara; by Mr. Beatty—from the inhabitants of Drummondville; by Mr. Pardee—from J. McFarlane and others of Moore; by Mr. Lutton—from W. Moore and others of St. Thomas; by Mr. Wilson—from certain inhabitants of the Town of Simcoe; by Mr. Richards—from James Durham and others of the Township of Niagara; by Mr. McColl—from D. McLaws, and others, of Dunwich, praying for an Act to enable the Erie and Niagara Railway to extend their line; by Mr. Richards—from A. Service, and others, of Niagara.

Mr. Coyne—From the Municipal Council of Toronto, praying that a school be established for the blind; also, from the Township of Toronto; by Mr. Currie—From the Township Council of Caradoc; by Dr. Boulter—From A. F. Wood and others of Madoc; by Mr. Barker—From the Township Council of Esquesing; by Mr. Isaac Carling—From the Municipality of the Town of Goderich; by Mr. Hays—From the Village of Clifton; by Mr. Hays—