

will, on Thursday next, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to consider the following resolutions:—

Resolved—1. That justice requires that every subject should contribute in due proportion to his means to the expenses of that Municipal Government of which he receives the benefit.

2 That the Assessment Act should be amended by striking out the exemptions from taxation therein contained in favour of certain classes of subjects.

Carried.

The House adjourned at four o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 14

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3:15 p.m.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. W. Craig—From the Trustees of the Canada Presbyterian Church property in Osgoode, praying that an Act may pass to enable them to sell certain of their lands.

Mr. Anderson—From W. E. Yarwood and others, of Picton, praying that an Act may pass to incorporate the Greenwood Cemetery Company.

Mr. Lount—From the Town Council of Collingwood, praying that an Act may pass to legalize certain maps of the estate known as the Hurontario estate, in Collingwood.

Mr. Swinarton—From the Township Council of Albion, praying that an Act may pass to establish the Indian, or Thirty-Six Mile Line as the public highway between Albion and King.

Mr. McCall—From the County Council of Norfolk, praying that the Ontario Statutes be distributed gratuitously to municipalities.

Mr. Gow—From the Mechanics' Institute of Guelph, praying aid.

Hon. Mr. Carling—From the Sisters of St. Joseph, of the diocese of London, praying that an Act may pass to incorporate them; also, from the same praying aid.

Mr. Baxter—Address for copies of Engineer's Report, and all correspondence with the Hamilton and Port Dover Plank Road Co. since July 1st, 1867.

COURTS OF AUDITORS.

Mr. CARNEGIE introduced a Bill to alter the times of holding the Court of Auditors for auditing county accounts.

Bill read first time; second reading Monday.

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Mr. CARNEGIE introduced a Bill to consolidate and amend the laws having reference to each of the Fire Insurance Companies doing business in the Province of Ontario.

Bill read first time; second reading Monday.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. BOYD enquired whether it be true that J. B. McLellan, Esquire, law partner of the Attorney-General, has been appointed to the office of County Attorney and Clerk of the Peace of the united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengary, in the room of James Bethune, Esquire, resigned.

Atty. Gen. MACDONALD—Yes.

Mr. SINCLAIR enquired whether it is the intention of the Government to place a sum in the Estimates for the improvement of the Commercial Harbours of the Province, or of any of them.

Atty. Gen. MACDONALD said that it did not fall within the province of the Provincial Government to do the work referred to. The hon. member would see, however, what was the intention of the Government when the estimates were brought down.

Mr. BLAKE enquired whether it is intended to make any change in the Timber License system during this Session.

Atty. Gen. MACDONALD—There is no such intention.

LIQUOR IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. MACDOUGALL moved that Mr. Speaker be requested to prevent the sale of spirituous liquors in the House. He said that he heard remarks made by members at the close of last session, that they found it extremely annoying to be pressed to drink by persons who had measures they wanted to have passed. There was no gentlemen in the House who would be affected by prohibiting the sale of liquors; and their prohibition would tend to the dignity of the House.

Mr. BLAKE.—Hear, hear.

Mr. MACDOUGALL proceeded to say that

the prohibition of the sale of spirituous liquors in the House would promote the cause of temperance in the Province. (Hear, hear.) The people looked very much at the example set by the House; and he hoped for this reason the motion would pass. The motion was not intended in any shape to cast reflections on any person in the House. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. McKELLAR said that if he remembered aright, a similar resolution was passed at the early part of the first session of this Parliament; but for some reason he was unable to explain, the order had not been observed. It would give assistance to the cause of temperance outside, if members showed they were willing to promote the cause of temperance inside the House. They all knew the use of intoxicating drinks had done more to fill our gaols, penitentiaries, and asylums than anything else. He sincerely hoped the resolution would be passed; and that the Government would use their influence to that effect. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said there could be no objection to the passing of the motion. He did not say that drinking habits were more common to one part of the House than to another; but he did say that he knew those who preached the doctrines of temperance, but did not follow them. So long as the Government of the Dominion was content to receive revenues from spirituous liquors, this House might try to the fullest extent to stop drinking, but would fail. He recollected at one period when the time of the country was wasted for hours, until some member who was wanted, but who was enjoying himself, could be brought into the House to vote. But he did not know how this motion would mend matters, for those who were in the habit of drinking would drink elsewhere if they would not get it here. The Government had a majority, however, and was not afraid of accidents; and was willing to let the motion pass.

Mr. WILSON said he sincerely hoped the House would set its face against drinking. (Hear, hear.)

The SPEAKER put the motion, and it was adopted.

MR. GREELEY'S SHRIEVALTY.

Mr. BLAKE moved an address for copies of all correspondence and memorials as to the filling of the vacancy in the shrievalty of Prince Edward, to which Mr. Greeley, then member for that county, was appointed. He said it would be in the recollection of all that during the last session a vacancy was caused in the shrievalty of Prince Edward by the death of the Sheriff. That vacancy was not filled for some months; but at the end of these months his hon. friend opposite was enabled to find a person qualified to fill the office in the person of the member for the constituency, Mr. Greeley. So long as the present existing system of administering the Government continued—namely, that of giving offices to friends of members for counties, provided members were on the right side of the House—it appeared to him extremely obvious that it was very objectionable that a member should himself be appointed to any vacancy in the constituency. (Hear, hear.) The member was considered in some sort as a trustee of the patronage of the constituency; but the thing should go further, and it should be made known that a member had not only the right to name the person who should fill a vacancy, but that he should also have the right to name himself. There might be some overwhelming reason why a vacancy should be filled by a member—some overwhelming expression of public opinion in his favour which a Government could not afford to disregard. But he (Mr. Blake) had heard that petitions were sent in for the appointment of other candidates besides Mr. Greeley; and such being the case, it was right the House should know the overwhelming necessity for the appointment of Mr. Greeley, and the reasons why the other candidates were rejected. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that the hon. gentleman who made the motion had no right to ask for any memorials concerning the appointment of Mr. Greeley.

Mr. BLAKE—Hear, hear.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD repeated that the hon. gentleman had no right to ask for any memorials, or to question the prerogative as exercised in the appointment of Mr. Greeley. Why did not the hon. gentleman bring in a motion to condemn the Government for making the appointment? As far as he (Hon. J. S. Macdonald) was concerned, there had been no correspondence between the Government and the parties who represented the different nominees for the appointment.

Mr. BLAKE—So I understand you to

say that you have nothing that the House asks for?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—No correspondence.

Mr. BLAKE—Of course if there is no correspondence there is no object in the motion. But if there were correspondence I should have pressed the motion.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—There were memorials sent in.

Mr. BLAKE—In favour of Mr. Greeley?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—For several others.

Mr. BLAKE—Were there no memorials in respect to Mr. Greeley?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—Not that I am aware of.

Mr. BLAKE—With that answer, I am content for the present.

Mr. BLAKE moved an address for copies of all correspondence between the Government and the Judges of the Court of Chancery, and of any representations from the practitioners of that Court, with reference to the administration of any of the subordinate offices therein, and of any Orders in Council on this subject, and of any letters of resignation of any of the officers, and of the patents or other warrants of appointment of any persons appointed since last session. He said it would be in the recollection of the House that last session he had called attention to the inefficiency of some officials in the Court of Chancery. On that occasion he felt it his duty to speak pretty strongly, though being scrupulous to refer to no particular party or department. He offered, that should any doubt exist as to the accuracy of his general statements, to take a committee and prove their accuracy. The answer was a very proper one under the circumstances, namely, that the representations would receive attention, and that at the close of the session the Government would investigate the matter. He understood, from the public press that subsequently to that time, some action took place on the part of the practitioners of the Court. With that action he personally had nothing whatever to do, for the reason that he felt that it was desirable to sitting in that House he should do or say nothing which might in the slightest degree compromise his freedom of action in the matter on the floor of that House. He understood that some communications had taken place with the Government, the result of which had been that within a short distance of time, somewhere about the 1st of November, although the session closed last December, changes took place in certain of the departments. He was not aware whether the representations that were made to the Government from the judges referred to any other departments of the court, or suggested any changes either as to persons or as to the mode of conducting any of the subordinate departments. It would be interesting to those who were interested in the administration of justice, who felt it a duty to see that the administration of justice was carried on with the utmost expedition and the utmost economy, that if any such representations had been made to know what they were and what had been done in reference to them. It would also be interesting to the counsel of the country to know what had taken place in reference to the changes that had been made, and whether any other changes have been contemplated. It was with the view of gaining this information that he had brought forward his motion.

Attorney-General MACDONALD said the hon. gentleman could have the order in council, but it was not customary to bring down copies of representations which had been made to another body than the Government. The representations of the bar were sent to the Chancellor and his brother judges of the court, and the bar did not consider it necessary to address the Attorney-General. A communication, more of a private nature, was however made to him by the judges, which pointed out certain changes, which in the opinion of the judges, it was proper to carry out. He took some time to consider the matter, and get acquainted with the facts of the case, and had eventually carried out in the main the recommendations of the committee. The communication he had received from the Chancellor was also of a private character, and the hon. member would not surely desire that communications, which must necessarily more or less partake of a private nature and involve the competency or incompetency of subordinates should be submitted to the House. If the hon. gentleman had any complaint to make of any of the changes, he might make them; but he (the Attorney-General) had not heard of anything. Mr. Boyd, than whom there was no