

Mr. Fraser.—From the Township Council of Beverly, praying that an Act may be passed to confirm a certain survey.

#### REPORTS.

Mr. Rykert presented the 2nd report of the Standing Orders Committee.

Mr. Scott (Ottawa) presented the 1st report of the Printing Committee.

#### MIDLAND RAILWAY CO.

Mr. WILLIAMS (Durham) introduced a Bill to authorise the Midland Railway of Canada to consolidate its mortgages, and for other purposes.

#### STREETSVILLE AND PORT CREDIT JUNCTION RAILWAY.

Mr. COYNE introduced a Bill to incorporate the Streetsville and Port Credit Junction Railway Company.

#### GRAND JUNCTION RAILWAY.

Mr. GRAHAM (Hastings) introduced a Bill to enable municipalities along the line of the Grand Junction Railway to grant aid thereto, and to legalize certain by-laws granting aid to said road.

#### REGISTRARS.

Mr. EVANS introduced a Bill to amend the Act respecting Registrars.

#### THE SALE OF POISONS.

Dr. MCGILL introduced a Bill to amend the laws relating to the sale of poisons.

#### REGISTRATION OF TITLES.

Mr. BLAKE introduced a Bill to declare the true construction of 13th Eliz., chap. 5.

Mr. BLAKE introduced a Bill to amend the Registration of Titles (Ontario) Act.

#### CHURCH LANDS.

Mr. CRAIG (Russell) introduced a Bill to enable the Canada Presbyterian Church of Osgoode to dispose of part of their lands.

Mr. CRAIG (Glengary) introduced a Bill to enable the Trustees of Presbyterian Church, connected with the Church of Scotland, in the Township of Kenyon, to dispose of certain lands.

The above Bills were read a first time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion of Mr. SCOTT (Grey), leave of absence was granted to Mr. Hooper, the member for Addington, for five days, on account of ill health.

#### REPLIES TO ADDRESSES.

Mr. CAMERON presented replies to addresses for information concerning Bank accounts of the Province, and the number of lunatics in the Province and in the different institutions, &c.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS moved that the House go into Committee of the whole House on Thursday, to consider the following resolutions:—

*Resolved*.—That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council should have authority to reduce the price of any Crown or clergy lands sold previously to the 1st of July, 1867, when it shall appear that such lands have been sold at prices beyond their fair value, and that such prices remain unpaid; also to make such abatement of the arrears of interest upon the unpaid instalments of the purchase money of any Crown or clergy lands sold prior to the said date, as may appear equitable and just; and also by Order in Council to confer such authority upon the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

2nd. That such reduction and abatement should be confined to cases in which the purchasers from the Crown, or those claiming under them, are in occupation of such lands as actual settlers, and residents thereon. (Hear, hear.)

#### LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD moved the second reading of a Bill to make the members of the Law Society of Ontario elective by the Bar thereof. The Attorney-General, who was almost inaudible in the gallery, said that last year the leader of the Opposition brought in a Bill similar to this; but at that time the objection was taken that the Law Society being a corporate body had a right to be notified. The real object of the present Bill was to create a more satisfactory mode of controlling the affairs of this large Society than the mode which had hitherto prevailed.

Mr. BLAKE rose to a point of order. This was a private Bill, and the Attorney-General had introduced it as a public one. Mr. Blake quoted from a ruling made by the Speaker last session in support of his point of order.

Hon. Mr. WOOD thought that the Speaker could over-rule his ruling. (Laughter.) He was of opinion that the Bill should be allowed to go to a second reading.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that after the ruling of last year he would not press for the second reading of the Bill, and would withdraw it.

#### CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS BILL.

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the law relating to Election Petitions, and for providing more effectually for the prevention of corrupt practices at elections for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The hon. gentleman briefly explained the provisions of the Bill, stating that it was compiled from the English Act, which had given great satisfaction in its working. The main object of the Bill was to place the trial of controverted elections in the hands of the Superior Court Judges, and thus avoid the delays and expensiveness of the present mode. There could be no doubt that the present Bill would be a vast improvement on the present way of trying these disputed questions.

Mr. MCKELLAR expressed the pleasure of the House must feel at the introduction of such a Bill. He had been a member of the Legislature for a number of years—he thought the Attorney-General was the only member present who had a longer experience—and he could bear testimony to the defective state of the present law. The House would give every assistance to make this Bill as perfect as possible. There was no doubt that a great many methods of corruption existed which it was impossible to reach by any other methods than that proposed in the Bill. They were aware that cases had occurred in which candidates, although ap-

## Legislature of Ontario.

FOURTH SESSION—1ST PARLIAMENT.

TUESDAY, Dec. 20.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3:10 p.m.

#### PETITIONS.

Mr. Scott (Ottawa).—From the City Council of Ottawa, praying that an Act may pass to enable the corporation to sell certain lands. Also, the petition of the Sisters of our Lady of Charity, praying to be incorporated.

Mr. Carnegie.—From the Rector and Churchwardens of St. John's Church, Peterborough, praying for an Act to amend Cap. 87 of 27 Vic.

Mr. Fraser.—From the Trustees of the Friends' or Quakers' Seminary, of Prince Edward, and for other purposes.

Mr. Blake.—From the Kincardine Mechanics' Institute, praying aid.

Mr. Beatty.—From Sullivan, Caverno, and others, of Lockport, praying for power to sell certain lands.