

FRIDAY, Jan. 13.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3.15 p.m.

The following petition was received:—

Mr. Beatty—From the County Council of Welland, for an amendment to the Assessment Law.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. RYKERT presented the ninth report of the Committee on Standing Orders.

STREETSVILLE AND PORT CREDIT RAILWAY COMPANY.

Attorney-General MACDONALD presented the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Railways. The Committee reported the Streetsville and Port Credit Railway Company's Bill with amendments.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Attorney General MACDONALD presented the report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS.

Mr. RYKERT introduced a Bill to amend chap. 52 of 29 and 30 Vic., relating to Municipal Institutions.

THE ESTATE OF JOHN FLANNIGAN.

Mr. CRAIG (Glengary) introduced a Bill to relieve the estate of the late John Flannigan, in the county of Glengary.

CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY, TORONTO.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON introduced a Bill to amend the Act incorporating the Consumers' Gas Company, Toronto.

CITY OF LONDON.

Hon. Mr. CARLING introduced a Bill to enclose a part of Church street in the city of London, and to invest it in the corporation.

STANFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Mr. BEATTY introduced a Bill to enable the trustees of the Stanford Presbyterian Church to sell certain lands held by them for congregational purposes.

ST. THOMAS.

Mr. LUFON introduced a Bill to extend the limits of the corporation of the town of St. Thomas.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. BOYD asked the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works when the report of his department would be brought down. The House had now been in session for five weeks, and it was highly desirable that the House should be put in possession of this report at the earliest possible moment.

Hon. Mr. CARLING said that the report would be laid on the table early next week; also the report of the departments of Immigration and Agriculture.

WAYNE COUNTY (MICHIGAN) RECORDS.

The House went into Committee (Mr. Lount in the chair) on the following motion of the Attorney-General:—To authorise the delivery of certain Registry Books in the county of Essex, to the Registrar of deeds of Wayne county, in the State of Michigan, one of the United States of America.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendments. Third reading ordered for Monday.

ELECTION PETITIONS.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD moved the House into Committee (Mr. Eyre in the chair) on a 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.

Several verbal amendments, almost inaudible in the reporters' gallery, were made in the Bill.

On the motion that the committee rise and report progress,

Mr. BLAKE said it was a source of considerable satisfaction to him that some of the various recommendations he had made in his Bill had been considered worthy of adoption. It was, however, a circumstance of surprise to him that the member for Welland (Mr. Beatty), who had stated before his constituents that he could not vote for that Bill because the details were so bad, could find nothing in this Bill of the Attorney-General's to which he could object. (Hear, hear.)

The committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

BENCHERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill to render the Benchers of the Law Society elective by the Bar thereof. (Mr. Fraser in the chair.)

On clause 5, referring to the election of members by the inner and outer bar,

Mr. BLAKE said he was not aware of the exact number of members within and without the bar, but there was no doubt that the former class was much less than the latter. The silk gowns had got their privileges already, and should trust in their merits for election as benchers. He should deeply regret to see that the endeavour to remove a grievance of administration of the Law Society should be accompanied by what he must consider a fresh grievance. He was quite confident that if the silk gowns trusted to their merits, they would have ample representation. The clause would make a small class corporation, and he hoped the Attorney-General would agree that the clause should be struck out. He would move that this should be done.

Attorney-General MACDONALD said that out of the thirty benchers who would be elected by the bar, eighteen would be elected by the outside bar, which was, he thought, a fair proportion. He thought the arrangement would be generally acceptable, and would be found beneficial. At any rate they ought to give it a trial. The class of silk gowns ought to have some representation secured to it, which probably might not be gained if the whole election were thrown open.

Mr. LOUNT said the object of the Bill was to break up the Association. But the clause five, which the hon. member for South Bruce had complained of, would certainly have the effect of creating a close corporation. The opinion of the profession was against close corporations. There was no reason why the Queen's Counsel should have any special privileges in the matter of election. He shared the views of the hon. member for South Bruce on this subject. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. RYKERT said he could not follow his leader on this subject. There were Queen's Counsel who had not attained that position through their merit, but through the exercise of the patronage of the Crown.

Mr. BLAKE—Hear, hear.

Mr. RYKERT said that the Bill had for its object the elevation of the profession, and if so it would not create these class distinctions. As soon as a line were drawn between the outside and inside bar evils would be sure to arise. No man who had a desire to elevate the profession would select a representative unless the representative were a man who held a distinguished position in the profession. He was fully persuaded that if the bar were permitted to exercise their independent judgment, it would be found that a large majority of those who would be elected to the benches would belong to the Queen's Counsel branch. He hoped the Attorney-General would look to the large number of the profession outside of the bar, and endeavour to meet their views, and thus prevent an antagonism between the inside and the outside bar. He hoped that the Attorney-General would place all the bar on an equal footing. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said they must not forget that they were legislating members out of office who were elected for life. The Government thought that it would be only fair to give an opportunity to the silk gowns to re-elect these gentlemen. He had no doubt the hon. member for South Bruce would be elected a bencher of the Law Society.

Mr. BLAKE said he would much prefer being elected by the outside bar. (Hear.)

Mr. CAMERON said that individually he had declined to be a member of the society because it was a close corporation. He would himself be rather elected by a wider

constituency than a narrow one. Still, they owed something to the men who were now members of the society.

Mr. PARDEE replied to the remarks of Mr. Cameron. He said the present members of the society had not been elected because they were Queen's Counsel, but on account of their eminent qualities. They were not legislating against the men, but against the system. If they did away with the system, he did not see why they should not re-elect some men not members of the inner bar. They should all stand on the same footing. The principle of the Bill was a good one, and it would be a misfortune if its good effects were hindered by the adoption of the clause as it now stood.

Mr. COYNE said the men were there, and if the system was bad, it was no reason why something like the proposal of the Bill should not be adopted. He thought that a plan like this might be carried out—that a certain number of the present members of the bar who wore silk gowns should be re-appointed, and the remainder thrown open to general election; eventually the whole elections might be thrown open.

Mr. BLAKE said that this proposal was not equitable, since there were members of the Society who were not within the bar, who would not be provided for under such an arrangement. The present members were elected by themselves, and composed a close corporation. The offices were not ones of emolument but of honour, and the present members had no room to complain.

Attorney-Gen. MACDONALD said that in the introduction of a measure of this character there was considerable delicacy required, in removing gentlemen who for a number of years had taken great interest in the Society. There was no disposition to disregard the privileges of the distinguished members of the bar, or to interfere in any way with the kindly feeling that had always existed between the different divisions of the bar. He would submit to the feeling of the House, that there should be no distinction between the inside and outside bar, and would therefore consent to the expunging of the fifth clause.

Mr. BLAKE—Hear, hear.

A desultory discussion ensued on the remaining clauses of the Bill, the principal subject being as to the best mode of conducting the elections.

Mr. BLAKE suggested that there should be some provision for a simple mode of nomination and that the nomination should be in writing, notice to be given in the *Gazette* a month before the election.

Nothing, however, was done beyond expunging the fifth clause.

The committee then rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again on Tuesday.

TORONTO, SIMCOE AND MUSKOKA JUNCTION RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. CUMBERLAND moved the third reading of the Bill to amend the Act passed in the thirty-third year of Her Majesty's reign, chapter thirty, and intitled "An Act to incorporate the Toronto, Simcoe and Muskoka Junction Railway Company."

Mr. BLAKE said that though he happened to be a resident of the city of Toronto—a city which had strong feelings on the subject of the Bill—he adhered to his old opinion, that the legalising of these by-laws was a wrong proceeding in former cases and was wrong now.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said he did not think the Bill carried more than a few cents on the dollar.

Mr. CUMBERLAND said that he objected as much as the hon. member for South Bruce to legalising by-laws; but the object of the present Bill was to correct a clerical error as to figures in the Bill of last year.

The Bill was read a third time and passed. GRAND JUNCTION RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. GRAHAM (Hastings)—Bill to enable the Municipalities along the line of the Grand Junction Railway Company to grant aid thereto, and to legalize certain by-laws granting aid to the said company, was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole on Monday.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. BLAKE congratulated the Government on the manner in which they had accelerated business. It was now twenty-five