TUESDAY, Jan. 17.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3 07 p. m.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Trow-From Henry Schreider and others of Perth, praying that a central prison may be established in the town of Stratford.

Mr. Wigle-From F. Thornton and others of Windsor, praying for certain amendments to the proposed School Bill.

Mr. McLeod-From Robert N. Waddell and others, of Cobourg, praying that the bill prayed for by the Midland Railway Company may not pass.

Mr. Clemens-From John Barbour and others of Galt, praying that an Act may pass to incorporate the Credit Valley Railway, and two others to the same effect.

Mr. Bexter-Fom Ronald McKinnor, of Caledonia, praying that the bill prayed for by the town of Bradford for the sale of certain works may not pass.

Mr. Murray-From D. L. Montgomery and others, of the county of Renfrew, praying for aid towards the construction of a bridge across the Ottawa River at Portage Dufort.

Mr. Barber-From the Streetsville Mechanics' Institute, for the amendment of the Act for the encouragement of agriculture,

Mr. McKim-From the township Council of Arthur, that the Bill to separate the county of Wellington may not pass.

Also, from the township council of Luther to the same effect.

PRESENTING REPORTS.

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

ST. CATHARINES.

Mr. RYKERT introduced a Bill to enable the town of St. Catharines to take certain highways for the purpose of making a public avehue.

ALBERT COLLEGE. Mr. GREY (Hastings) introduced a Bill to amend the Act incorporating the Albert

College. TORONTO UNION STATION PASSEN. GER AND DOCK COMPANY.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON introduced a Bill to incorporate the Toronto Union Station Pagsenger and Dock Company.

ONTARIO STREET RAILWAY COM. PANY, (LIMITED.)

Hon. Mr. CAMERON introduced a Bill te incorporate the Ontario Street Railway Company, (Limited)

TREE PLANTING.

Mr. SCOTT (Hastings) introduced a Bill to encourage the planting of trees on the highways of the Province.

PUBLIC FAIRS.

Mr. SCOTT (Grey) introduced a Bill to facilitate the establishment of public fairs.

SIDE LINES IN HUNTLEY.

Mr. LYON introduced a Bill to declare the mode in which the side lines of lots in the township of Huntley, county of Carleten, shall be defined.

TERRITORIAL DISTRICT OF THUN-DER BAY.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD introduced a Bill to provide for the organization of the Territorial District of Thunder Bay. He explained that there was a necessity for organ. izing a more efficient mode of protecting those who might emigrate to Manitoba. It was proposed by the Bill to separate this dictrict from the judicial district of Algoma for the more effectual protection of those who might desire to proceed to Fort Garry.

The Bill was then read a first time; second reading ordered for to morrow.

BROCKVILLE AND WESTPORT RAIL. WAY.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS introduced a Bill to incorporate the Brockville and Westport Railway Company.

GANANOQUE AND RIDEAU RAIL WAY.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS introduced a Bill te incorporate the Gananoque and Rideau Railway Company.

Mr. BLAKE-Hear, hear.

CHANGING THE NAMES OF COURTS.

Hon, J. S. MACDONALD introduced a Bill to alter the names of the Superior Courts. He explained that the object was to alter the names of the Courts of Queen's Bench, Upper Canada, and call them the Courts of Queen's Bench, Ontario.

RAILWAY IN WELLAND.

Mr. BEATTY introduced a Bill to enable Charles C. Grove and Nicholas Croglehart to construct a railway in Welland.

SCHOOL BILL.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the School Bill, Mr. McCall (Norfolk) in the chair.

On the first clause, that "All Common Schools, which shall hereafter be designated and known as Public Schools, shall be free schools; and the trustees of school sections, and the municipal councils of cities, towns, villages and townships, shall, in the manner now provided by law, levy and collect the rate upon all the taxable property of the school division or municipality (as the case may be), to defray the expenses of such schools, as determined by the trustees thereof."

Mr. PERRY moved an amendment that a clause as follows be added to the Bill:-"Provided always, that the trustees in cities, towns and incorporated villages may, notwithstanding anything in the Act, impose monthly fees, not exceeding 25 cents, upon the parents, to cover the cost of paper, stationery, and contingencies for the use of the pupils." He was not an opponent of the principle of free schools, but would prefer to leave the matter to the people. The clause was not peremptory, and he hoped would commend itself to the House. It had been proved in several towns, and he believed in the city of Hamilton, that the principle of allowing the trustees to impose a rate upon parents for the purpose of purchasing stationery, &c., was correct, and had been found to work well. It was important that the books used in schools should be uniform. It might be said that the trustees had the power, under the Act, to compel parents to do what was proposed by the amendment, but he was personally aware that the trustees of the county town of Ox ford did not wish to be placed in that pos'tion. The principle proposed had been tried for years, and worked uniformly well, the people being satisfied with it, and they now ask that this proviso should be added. He

hoped the Government would not object to the proviso. Hon. Mr. CAMERON had no objection to the proviso; provided the representatives