

Legislature of Ontario.

FIRST PARLIAMENT—FOURTH SESSION.

TUESDAY, Jan. 31.

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

PETITIONS.

Mr. Carnegie—From the County Council of Peterborough, praying for certain amendments to the Assessment Law.

Mr. Williams (Hamilton)—From Thomas B. Conley and others, of Hamilton, praying for certain amendments to the Liquor Law.

MR. CLARKE

Mr. Clarke, the hon. member for South Grenville, on taking his seat for the first time this session, was received with hearty cheering. The hon. gentleman has been absent on account of illness.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Attorney-General MACDONALD presented the eleventh report of the Committee on Standing Orders, reporting the Bill respecting the Brantford by-laws relating to the Grand River Navigation Company and the Queen City Fire Insurance Company.

Attorney-General MACDONALD presented the thirteenth report of the Standing Committee on Railways, reporting the Bills referring to the Brockville and Westport Railway Company, Credit Valley Railway Company, Bill amending the Toronto and Nipissing Railway Company, Norfolk Railway Company, and the railway in the township of Bertie, county Welland.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Mr. ANDERSON introduced a Bill for the prevention of corrupt practices at municipal elections.

ROCKWOOD ASYLUM.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD moved that on to-morrow the House go into committee of the whole to consider the following resolutions:—

1st. That the occupation of the Rockwood Asylum for the use of an average number of three hundred of the insane of this Province, permitted by the Dominion Government, renders it expedient that the control of that institution should, if on no other than economical and administrative reasons, be vested in the Provincial Government.

2nd. That with that view, it is expedient that authority be granted to the Commissioner of Public Works to negotiate for the purchase or the leasing of the said institution, and the land pertaining thereto, upon such terms as may be agreed upon.

3rd. That any agreement for the purchase thereof shall be subject to the ratification of the Legislative Assembly.

He said that he regretted to say that the number of lunatics for the past year had been on the increase, and it was the duty of the House to see that proper accommodation was provided for these unfortunate. The Rockwood Asylum was under the control of the Dominion Government, but the expense was borne by the Province of Ontario, and amounted to more than all the other asylums put together. For this reason it was desirable that the Rockwood Asylum should pass under the control of the Government of Ontario. He had reason to believe that the Dominion Government would be very glad to get rid of the Rockwood Asylum, and in case it were obtained by Ontario, it would prove of great utility to the eastern section of the Province, for it would save the several localities there the expense of removing lunatics so far west as London.

Mr. BLAKE said he was sorry the Attorney-General's interest with the Federal Government did not go so far as to limit the expenditure of the institution at Brockville. He had boasted of his own economy, but could not persuade the Dominion Government to be economical. The Atty.-Gen. had stated that the expense of each lunatic per head would be from \$100 to \$110 per year. The House did not know what the expense might be in London, but it knew what the expense was in Toronto. From statements before him he (Mr. Blake) saw that this year, under the economical system of the Atty.-Gen., the expense in the Toronto Asylum was estimated at a little over \$129 per patient. The expenses at Rockwood were \$143. But against this difference was to be set the expense or the price or rent of the Rockwood Asylum, and the cost of its maintenance. It would be quite out of the question for the House, without more information as to the probable expense of the purchase of the Rockwood, the rental, the suitability of the building and the grounds to favour a wholesale purchaser. If the Atty.-Gen. had ventured to propose this course without supplying more information, he (Mr. Blake) would have opposed the motion. He apprehended that without further action there would be no trouble for the Atty.-Gen. to enter into negotiations with the Dominion Government to ascertain on what terms it would be willing to dispose of the Rockwood Asylum; and then lay the terms before this Parliament.

Attorney-General MACDONALD said the Government were not prepared to take any

lessons from the hon. gentleman. The Government recognized no party, but worked for the general welfare of the people. It worked in its own way, as no doubt the hon. gentleman would do when he got to the Treasury benches. They found no remonstrance from the people against the legislation which they had passed. The Dominion Government would no doubt take every step necessary to meet the Ontario Government, and it would be satisfactory to know that the House had sanctioned their action. As to the Government having the power of opening negotiations without the sanction of the House, he had only to say that in the opinion of the Government it was desirable that such sanction should be obtained. He reiterated his arguments to prove the saving which would result from the Province obtaining possession of the Institution, and said the Inspector of Prisons was confident that a great reduction in expense per patient would be made. The Prison Inspector was worthy of great praise, for he did a vast quantity of work—more than the three commissioners who formerly fulfilled the duties of the office had done. (Hear.) The hon. gentleman taunted him with his (Sandfield's) previous votes, but it somehow always happened that when he fell, he always, unlike the hon. gentlemen, fell upon his feet.

Mr. BLAKE—I never fall at all. (Hear, and a laugh.)

Atty.-General MACDONALD proceeded to defend the resolutions, and said the policy shadowed forth in them was in accordance with the conduct of the Government in the past. Any arrangement which the Government might make would be open to the consideration of the House, which would not be pledged to anything. He could not sit down without bearing testimony to the willingness with which the Dominion Government considered any request which the Ontario Government might make to them.

Mr. BOYD suggested that the Government might take into consideration the question whether the Inspector of Prisons might not have his attention directed to ascertain to what cause the increase of lunacy in the Province was owing. (Hear.) It was owing to this increase that greater expenditure was necessitated. With regard to the attacks of the Attorney-General on the hon. member for South Bruce, for captiousness in his opposition to the measures of the Government, he would like to remind the hon. Attorney-General that the Opposition had only taken the hon. gentleman's for a model, believing that, of course, what he did would be right in his eyes. The hon. gentleman had laid it down as a principle, that before a legislative body was called upon to pass an opinion upon the merits of the scheme, or to vote any sums of money, it was in the interests of the people that every possible information should be given to the House, on which to rightly predicate its judgment.

Atty.-General MACDONALD.—But that was under another Government. (Laughter.)

Mr. BOYD.—Yes, and consequently what was right at one time is wrong now. The Opposition felt deeply that the present course of the hon. gentleman was not in accordance with his antecedents, and would leave him to the country. (Hear.)

RAILWAY POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. BLAKE called attention to the fact that an irregular motion had been put on the paper last night. The Attorney-General had a motion on the paper with reference to the railway policy of the Government, but had not stated on what day he would bring down his motion.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he would bring down his motion on Thursday, and the debate would take place on Friday.

THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed:—

To appoint trustees for certain lands belonging to the Presbyterian Church, in connection with the Church of Scotland, in the town of Cornwall, and authorizing such trustees to sell portions thereof.—Mr. Craig, (Glengary.)

To enable the trustees of the Stamford Presbyterian Church to sell lands held by them for the use of the congregation, and for other purposes.—Mr. Beatty.

To empower the West Middlesex Agricultural Society to sell certain lands.—Mr. Currie.

To incorporate the St. George's Society of London.—Hon. Mr. Carling.

To amend the Acts incorporating the Consumers' Gas Company of Toronto.—Hon. Mr. Cameron.

LAW RELATING TO ELECTION PETITIONS.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD moved the receiving of the report of the committee on 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.

Mr. BLAKE moved an amendment to the effect that the clerk of the court should not receive \$1,000 per year for salary, but the sum of \$25 for each contested election case.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that he had no desire to press the discussion now, as he intended to have the item of salary placed in the estimates, when it could be discussed. He would withdraw his motion.

The motion was withdrawn.

COURT OF CHANCERY.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD moved the receiving of the report of the committee on the Bill to amend the law relating to the Court of Chancery and Referee of the

Mr. BLAKE said he had an amendment to make with reference to the salary of the referee, but would defer it until the Bill had been passed on those resolutions should be laid before the House.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he would

not press the motion at present.

The motion was held over.

THUNDER BAY.

The House then went into committee on the Bill to provide for the organization of the territorial district of Thunder Bay. Mr. Beatty in the chair.

The clauses of the Bill were agreed to, and the committee rose and reported.

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH, LONDON.

The Bill to incorporate the Sisters of St. Joseph, London (Hon. Mr. Carling), passed through committee. Mr. Rykert in the chair.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

On the motion of Hon. Mr. CAMERON that the House go into committee on the amended clauses of the School Bill,

Mr. BOYD said that the amended copy had only been distributed that afternoon, and it was rather premature to press discussion, especially as he observed there were several important alterations.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said there was no substantial change in the principle of the Bill, but the language had been considerably altered. If it was the desire of the House to postpone consideration of the clauses, he would not press the matter, as he desired to pass a Bill which would meet the wishes of the House.

Mr. BLAKE thought it would be better to leave the matter over for a day. He had not been able even to look at the amended clauses.

The matter then dropped.

LAW SOCIETY.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill to make the members of the Law Society elective.—Mr. Eysa in the chair.

The various clauses were agreed to, and the Committee rose and reported. Third reading fixed for to-morrow.

COURT OF CHANCERY.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill respecting the Court of Chancery.—Mr. Paxton in the chair.

A long discussion ensued on certain provisions in the Bill having reference to the internal arrangements of the Court of Chancery, Mr. Blake taking exception to the first clause, which was allowed to stand over.

Clause three was opposed by Mr. Blake, and allowed to stand over, as was also clause six.

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

FENELON FALLS RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON moved the House into committee, Mr. Graham, of Hastings, in the chair, on the Bill to incorporate the Fenelon Falls Railway Company.

The committee reported the Bill without amendment. Third reading to-morrow.

It now being six o'clock, the House rose for recess.

THE SUPPLY BILL.

After recess,

Hon. Mr. WOOD moved that the House go into Committee of Supply. In making this motion, he supposed that it would be necessary to follow the usual custom, and make the financial statement. He would first call the attention of the House to the estimates of the receipts and expenditures for the year just closed. Fortunately, this year the public accounts had been substantially brought down to the close of last year, and the House was therefore in a position to know precisely what the financial result of the year's transactions was. The receipts for 1870 footed up \$2,495,820 27, and the expenditures as per estimates \$1,999,568; but the House would perceive, by reference to the public accounts, that it was in fact \$1,575,787 78. The receipts were short of the \$3,002,185 estimated at last session, but the discrepancy was easily accounted for. And first he would call the attention of the House to the receipts of subsidy from the Dominion Government. It was estimated that there would be received from this source \$1,196,872; marriage licenses \$30,000; interest on special funds \$199,694; interest on Dominion balances \$25,000; and to be received from the Dominion on full balance of general account \$104,386. Now, the Dominion, under the statute, had the right to retain five per cent upon that portion of the excess of the debt of Ontario, and though the estimate was put down for the full amount of the subsidy, it would have shown better if this \$291,666 had been deducted from the amount. The difference between the actual receipts and the expenditures was easily explained. In the first place, the Dominion claimed this \$291,666; in the second place, of the Municipal Loan Fund, from which \$200,000 was expected, only \$150,000 had been realized. The Crown lands revenue also, from various causes which he did not need to explain, had fallen below the estimate by \$33,573. Then it was estimated there would be received from the Dominion a total of \$1,505,952; but the actual amount received, as would be seen by the public accounts for 1870, was only \$1,251,080, which would leave non-payments in the hands of the Dominion to the amount of \$254,872. There was also estimated from the City of Hamilton, interest on debentures, \$10,000. That amount had not been paid. It had been contemplated that \$200,000 would be realized from the Municipal Loan Fund, and had measures of stringency been adopted he had no doubt that the full amount would have been obtained. It was so too with the Crown lands, and he fully expected that the revenue from this source would be a good deal less this year. The estimated revenue from woods and forests would be kept up to the mark. Then as to the city of Hamilton debt, it was merely a collection which had not been made. If these facts were considered it would be seen that the normal sources of revenue estimated at last session had fully met their expectations. Now, as to the expenditure; it was estimated that it would amount in round numbers to \$2,000,000, but it had fallen short of that by about half a million, caused by un-der-taking public works upon which all the money appropriated could not be expended during last year. The result was that more than had been anticipated had gone to the