

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. SCOTT.—From the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Ottawa for an Act authorizing the Corporation to mortgage the By Ward Market House, and adjoining lot to enable them to enlarge same.

By Mr. WILLIAMS (Durham)—From ministers, elders, &c., of Presbyterian Church of Canada at Port Hope, for an Act to enable them to sell certain lands.

By Mr. WILLIAMS.—From the governing body of Trinity College School at Port Hope, praying for an Act of Incorporation.

By Mr. COYNE.—From James Carson and others, praying for an Act of Incorporation for the East Shimiah Mine Co., Thunder Bay.

By Mr. WILSON.—Petition of Simon Mandleman and others, for an Act of Incorporation.

By Mr. McCOLL.—Petition of the owners of Shimiah Mine, Thunder Bay, for an Act of Incorporation.

By Mr. GRAHAM.—Petition of St. Andrew's Church, Belleville, for appointment of Trustees.

By Mr. DEROUCHE—Petition of H. & E. Rathbone, of Millpoint, in county of Hastings, for an Act authorizing certain dams and cuts to be maintained.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

The following notices of motion were given:—

Monday—Mr. RYKERT, for leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act for the prevention of corrupt practices at municipal elections."

Mr. SEXTON—Leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Joint Stock Road Companies' Acts.

Mr. MERRICK—For a resolution in favor of supplying copies of Statutes to qualified justices free of costs.

Mr. MACDONALD (Leeds)—Enquiry of the Ministry whether they are prepared to recommend His Excellency to make an appropriation for the purchase of rifles for the volunteers of Ontario.

Also, whether the Ministry intends to initiate legislation in reference to the appointment of issuers of marriage licenses, &c.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE, seconded by Hon. Mr. Scott, moved that Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, Hon. Mr. McKeellar, Mr. Clarke (Centre Wellington), and Mr. Hodgins be added to the committee appointed to strike the standing committees.

MR SCOTT'S EXPLANATION.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON asked if hon. gentlemen opposite were now prepared to make any statement of their policy, and of the reasons which had induced the hon. member for South Bruce to form a union with the hon. member for Ottawa, who was a Conservative.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE said he had explained before the recess the policy of the Government. If hon. gentlemen would bring forward any motion on the subject the Government would be prepared to defend their policy.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON had understood before the adjournment of the House that it was said certain accusations had been made in reference to the conduct of an hon. member of the Administration, and that when that hon. gentleman took his place in the House again there would be some explanations given. He was not aware that the hon. member for South Bruce had yet announced the negotiations which passed between him and the hon. member for Ottawa which had induced that hon. gentleman to join the Administration.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said there was an hon. member absent whom he would like to see in his place; it would be improper to give any explanation with respect to his (Mr. Scott's) acceptance of office until the hon. member for Cornwall was present. He understood that hon. member would be in his place to-morrow. He (Mr. Scott) purposed to give to the House at the proper time that explanation which he thought was due to it, and would avail himself of the earliest opportunity of doing so.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON did not rise to offer any opposition to the names proposed to be added to the committee. From what had been announced as to future explanations, he admitted there was a degree of reasonableness about it and should offer no objection, though he considered that he was treating the Government in a very different manner from that in which the late Ministry had been. It was not his intention to offer anything like unnecessary hostility to the proceedings of the hon. gentlemen opposite. He and those who acted with him would be prepared to aid the Government in all just legislation. The administration had been formed on terms utterly at variance with the declarations which they had made while in opposition; but they would find they could not escape without having the matter so clearly and unmistakably placed before the House that no one could fail to understand it.

The motion was then put to the House and carried without a division.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE thought that in the absence of so many members of the House it was not desirable to proceed further, and moved, seconded by Mr. Mackenzie, that the House do now adjourn.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON would offer no objection, leaving the responsibility with the Government.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE considered it unadvisable to deal with business on the first day of the session, and believed that was the well-understood custom of the House.

The SPEAKER put the motion which was carried, and the House accordingly adjourned to this day (Friday) at three o'clock.