

Lauder suggested that the Principals of Queen's and Victoria Colleges should be *ex-officio* members of the Senate, and, Mr. Crooks objecting, gave notice he should move an amendment in the sense indicated at a later stage of the Bill. Some discussion took place with regard to the retention of the Principal of Upper Canada College as an *ex-officio* member of the Senate, it being objected that the masters of other High Schools or Collegiate Institutes might view with some jealousy the presence in the governing body, which appoints the Examiners, of a gentleman naturally interested in the success of candidates for his own school. The sense of the House, however, was against the exclusion of the Principal, and the name was retained, the Government undertaking to consider whether they would insert a clause giving seats in the Senate to representatives of the High School Masters.

The Treasurer then moved the second reading of the Mutual Fire Insurance Bill, the nature of which we describe in another column. A long discussion on points of detail ensued, and ultimately the Bill was referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. Prince's Bill respecting the maintaining of claims by assignees was briefly discussed and withdrawn. Mr. Bethune's Bill for the protection of persons improving lands under a mistake of title was read a second time and referred, and the House adjourned.

#### THE MUTUAL FIRE INSRANCE BILL.

The Bill to consolidate and amend the several Acts relating to Mutual Fire Insurance Companies in the Province of Ontario was read a second time in the Legislative Assembly yesterday and referred to a Select Committee. It contains seventy-four clauses arranged under nine general heads. Under the head "Formation of New Companies" it is provided that in any municipality where a public meeting for the purpose has been convened by ten freeholders, if thirty freeholders be present, and a majority of them agree that it is expedient to establish a Mutual Fire Insurance Company, they may open a subscription book in which persons possessing property may sign their names to a declaration binding them to effect insurances in the said company. When a hundred subscribers have been found whose aggregate insurances would amount to \$200,000 at least, they may, on the requisition of any ten of them, call a meeting, at which the Company shall be formed, its name decided on, and not less than five nor more than fifteen Directors and an *ad interim* Secretary appointed. The subscription book and names of Directors will then be filed at the office of the Registrar of the county or riding, and the Company will thenceforward become a body corporate and politic under the name they have adopted. A meeting of the Directors is then to be held as early as possible, at which the necessary officers, including a President and Vice-President, are to be chosen.

In the clauses relating to "General Meetings" provision is made for the due control of the Company's affairs by the members, who are to have votes in proportion to the amount of property they have respectively insured. For \$1,500 a member will have one vote; from \$1,500 to \$3,000, two votes; from \$3,000 to \$6,000, three votes; and one vote for every additional \$3,000; but no

member will be entitled to vote whose premiums are in arrear. The qualification of a director must be an insurance of not less than \$800. They may be elected by the members voting in person or by proxy, the proxy-holder being of course a member. The vote is to be by ballot, and the manager of the Company may be a director and receive a salary if so authorized by a by-law, but no other paid officer will be eligible for a seat at the Board. Three directors will constitute a quorum.

The Board of Directors will have power to appoint officers, decide what shall be their salaries, and regulate the tariff of rates as well as the insurances to be accepted. They may also make arrangements for the re-insurance with other companies of any property insured with their company. The company may cancel any policy, but, up to the time of cancelling, the member holding the policy will be liable to pay his share of the losses and expenses of the company. Or any member may, on giving due notice in writing, retire from the company on payment of his share of assessments then payable and to become payable on losses and expenses sustained. Other clauses give the Directors power to invest or borrow money. The policies may be issued for any period not exceeding five years. Any fraud concealment, or misrepresentation will render the policies void. The alienation of the property [also voids the policy, but assignees may have the policy transferred to them upon giving security for the payment of any portion of the deposit or premium note remaining unpaid.

The [company may accept promissory or premium notes for insurances, and may issue policies thereon, said notes to be assessed for the losses and expenses of the company. The Directors, it is provided, shall demand not less than ten per centum of the premium note at the time that application for insurance is made, such payment, which is to be in cash, may be credited against future assessments. All premium notes are to be assessed annually for not less than ten per centum of their amount, and for such further sums as may be necessary to meet the losses and expenditure of the company; notice being given to the member of the amount of his assessment. The assessment of premium notes is to be in proportion to the amount of the notes having regard to the branch or department to which their policies respectively appertain. The directors may, at the expiration of thirty days after notice, sue the member or other person who has given the note if he refuses or fails to pay the assessment chargeable against him.

A reserve fund may be formed, to consist of such moneys as may remain on hand after meeting all the losses and expenditures of the year, and the directors may also levy an assessment for the same purpose, amounting to not more than ten per centum on the notes. Any Mutual Fire Insurance Company to be incorporated under the Act will be unable to issue any policies except upon the Mutual principle. In a further series of clauses provision is made for the payment of losses, arbitrations, references, and proceedings by suit at law. The company may divide its business into branches or departments, with reference to the nature or classification of the risks, or the localities in which insurances may be effected. Members insuring in one branch will not be liable for