

MONDAY, Jan. 27, 1873.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Meredith—From the City Council of London for an Act to enable them to acquire lands for market purposes.

Mr. Gifford—From W. P. Chamberlain *et al*, for an Act to incorporate the Cobourg Hotel Company.

Mr. Bethune—From the Town Council of Cobourg, that the Improvement Act of the Cobourg Harbour may not pass in its present shape.

Mr. McKim—From William Dawson *et al*, of Luther, against the disunion of that township from Wellington County.

Mr. Meredith—From the East Middlesex Agricultural Society for an Act to close a certain street in London.

Mr. Williams (Hamilton)—From the Hamilton and North-western Railway Company, for an Act to amend their incorporation Act.

Also—From William McGiverin *et al*, of Hamilton, for an Act to incorporate the Hamilton Street Railway Company.

Mr. Meredith—From the City Council of London, for an Act to enable them to construct water-works.

Mr. Wells—From Robert Beaty *et al*, of Toronto, for an Act to incorporate the Fire Extinguisher Manufacturing Company.

Mr. Bethune—From A. T. McCord *et al*, for an Act to incorporate the Toronto Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Mr. Hodgins—From Samuel Sheppard *et al*, of Middlesex, for an Act to incorporate the London and Lake Erie Railway Company.

Mr. E. B. Wood—From William Nelson, Duncan McLeod, Michael Phelan and others, of Luther, for the erection of a new county, to be called Palmerston.

Mr. Monk—From Arthur Benner *et al*, for an Act to incorporate the Alliance Insurance Company.

Mr. Wells—From the Kincardine School Board, for amendments to the School Act.

Mr. Harrington—From the Arnprior School Board, to the same effect.

Mr. Paxton—From the Port Perry School Board, to the same effect.

Mr. Haney—From the Thorold School Board, to the same effect.

Mr. Monk—From the County Council of Carleton for amendment to the Municipal and Assessment Acts.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. BETHUNE—To erect a village of Orangeville and certain townships into a new county, to be called the County of Dufferin.

Mr. WOOD—Bill to erect the townships therein named in a junior county, to be called the County of Palmerston.

COUNTIES.

Mr. LAURENCE said that it would save time if the Government would express its views with reference to these Bills which were being introduced.

Attorney-General MOWAT said that of course the Government could not prevent the first reading of these Bills, but the policy of the Administration was that no action should be taken in this matter during the present session.

Mr. WOOD explained the circumstances which called for the formation, in his opinion, of the new county to be called Palmerston. At the present time the persons living in the townships interested were compelled to go sixty, eighty, and even a hundred miles to do their county business. They believe that their peculiar circumstances should be taken into account by the House, for they were greatly inconvenienced as at present situated. As far back as 1863 the people composing substantially the same municipalities as now presented their case to the House, strongly, numerous, and urgently petitioned the old Parliament of Canada for relief, and the Hon. Mr. Wallbridge brought in a Bill for the formation of a new county. For some reason or other, probably because great political emergencies arose, the Bill was lost sight of; but he had no doubt that the Bill would have become law had not other matters absorbed the attention of the House. In 1870 and '71, in the Legislature here, petitions numerous signed—by nearly two thirds, he might say, of the property