

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO.

SECOND PARLIAMENT—THIRD SESSION.

FRIDAY, JAN. 16.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Williams (Durham)—Of Trinity College School, praying for an Act to amend their Act of Incorporation.

Mr. Calvin—Of David Gibson, *et al*, of Wolf Island, for certain amendments to the School Act.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. BAXTER—To amend and consolidate the Acts relating to the practice of medicine and surgery.

REVISION OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said it appeared to some members of the House that there were some of the rules and orders which might be changed with advantage, and in order that this question might be considered by those who took an interest in the matter, he begged to make the following motion, "That a Select Committee be appointed to revise the rules, orders, and regulations of the House, to be composed as follows:—Hon. Attorney-General, Mr. Cameron, Hon. Mr. Crooks, Messrs Hodgins, Meredith, and Hardy."

Mr. LAUDER said some years ago a Committee was appointed, on the motion of the late Mr. Sandfield Macdonald, for the consideration of the matter, and he (Mr. Lauder) would like the hon. gentleman to tell the House what particular rules he objected to. The Committee he had referred to attempted to revise some of the rules, but their revision was objected to by Mr. Blake. One rule was, with regard to petitioning the House. If any petition were presented affecting the revenue of the income of the Province, it was held it should not be received. A good many people in the country were anxious to petition the House for a reduction of the prices of Crown Lands, but such petitions could not be presented. He believed the people of the country should have free access to the House by petitioning. A great many petitions had been objected to, simply because they involved the expenditure of a small sum of money, and he did not see the force of this rule in this Assembly. He admitted that similar rules existed, but he could not see the necessity of it in this Chamber, and he thought the Attorney-General should indicate to some extent in what direction the rules were to be amended.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said with regard to the particular Bill to which the hon. member objected, namely, that no petition for any charge upon the public revenue, however small, could be received, the hon. member must perceive that if they receive petitions in respect to a small charge upon the public revenue, they could not exclude petitions for a large charge upon the public revenue. The rule had been found, as the hon. member stated, to be a proper rule to be adopted and acted upon in England and in the Dominion Parliament. He thought they might very well assume that what for so many years had been found to be a beneficial rule in Houses similarly constituted to their own would be a beneficial rule here. There was nothing more necessary to guard against than this point, for which the Constitution provided. The 51st Section of the Confederation Act provided that it should not be lawful to adopt or pass any resolution, address, or bill for "the appropriation of any part of the public revenue, or of any tax or import to any purpose that has not been first recommended to the House by Message in the same session." He (Mr. Mowat) could not see why the rule that had been so long established should be broken. During the recess he had spoken to the Clerk of the House and certain members, and it was thought some revisions should be made. He thought there were some things not provided for which would prove an advantage, and would rather not go into details upon the present occasion, but would rather have the matters discussed by gentlemen who were familiar with the subject, and if they were in

avour of a change, the matter would be brought before the House, which would be at liberty to accept or reject the proposal.

Mr. LAUDER said there had been more complaints respecting the rule he had referred to than any other.

The motion was carried.

ESCHEATS.

Hon. Attorney-General MOWAT moved the second reading of the Bill for the amendment of the law respecting Escheats. After having explained the provisions of the Bill,

Mr. LAUDER asked that the Bill might be allowed to stand over, as there was only a thin House.

Mr. RICHARDS thought that some of the provisions did not meet the necessities of the case, and that the second reading should be postponed.

Mr. HODGINS having spoken in favour of the Bill,

Mr. BETHUNE expressed his belief that the Bill provided for the provisions necessary.

Mr. MEREDITH desired that the second reading should be deferred, and thought that the third clause was rendered unnecessary by the Land Act of 1860.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT thought the second reading might be proceeded with, and that the details of the Bill might be considered in Committee of Whole.

The second reading was then carried.

ADJOURNMENT FOR THE ELECTIONS.

Attorney-General MOWAT said that the next order of the day was with regard to the adjournment of the House; he had been endeavouring to ascertain what the desire of both sides of the House was on this subject, and what course it would be considered most convenient to take with a view to the despatch of business. When the question of the adjournment of the House over the Dominion elections was first mentioned, it seemed to him that that course would not be necessary; but he was well aware that they would have a thin House while the elections were going on. At the same time it occurred to him that there was some business that they could do without a full House. It occurred to him again, however, that they could not get on with business well in the absence, say, of the hon. member for South Grey—(laughter)—and he (Mr. Mowat) would not feel at home if he were not attacked two or three times a day by the hon. member for Lincoln. (Renewed laughter.) He (Mr. Mowat) would also feel the absence of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. In view of all the circumstances, the Government had come to the conclusion that business would not be effectually advanced by the House continuing in session during the Dominion elections with all their excitement. (Hear, hear.) Believing this, and believing that it was the general desire—although a desire not entertained by every member without exception on either side of the House—that the House should adjourn, he proposed moving that the House do adjourn. (Hear, hear.) Then, with regard to the time, he thought, perhaps, from Tuesday next until after the elections were over. It had been strongly represented by gentlemen on both sides of the House that, if the adjournment took place to-day, a great many gentlemen would go away and be absent on Saturday. For these gentlemen to come back for Monday and Tuesday would be for them to undergo considerable trouble without any corresponding advantage. On the whole, therefore, the Government proposed to adjourn from to-day, and he intended to ask the House to do this. Then the question was, how long that adjournment should continue? Hon. gentlemen were aware that most of the elections would take place on the Thursday after next, and, of course, they could not expect hon. gentlemen to be here on the Friday. He thought it would meet the views of most hon. gentlemen if the Government did not require them to leave their homes until the Monday afterwards. The Government proposed, therefore, to ask the House to adjourn until Tuesday, the 3rd