

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO.

SECOND PARLIAMENT—THIRD SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 4.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

Mr. SPEAKER announced that he had received the writ for the return of Mr. O'Donohue, a representative for Ottawa, announcing that he had been returned.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Ardagh—To amend the Assessment Act of 1869, in respect to the Land Tax Sales.

Hon. Mr. McKellar—To amend the Act respecting the Public Works of Ontario.

Also—To extend the Franchise.

NORMAL SCHOOLS.

Mr. TOOLEY asked whether it was the intention of the Government during the present Session to make provision for the erection of a Normal School in Western Ontario, and if so, where the school was to be located.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT desired that his hon. friend would allow the matter to stand over.

TAVERN AND SHOP LICENCES.

Mr. WOOD moved for a copy of all correspondence between the Government and the different issuers of Tavern and Shop Licences, with reference to the working of the present License Act.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS said that a return, which would, he believed, contain all the information the hon. gentleman sought to obtain, was being printed. Therefore he would ask the hon. gentleman to defer his motion.

The motion was withdrawn.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYES.

Mr. LAUDER moved for a comparative statement showing the number of officers and servants in the employment of the Government of Ontario in the different Departments, with their salaries, for the years 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, and 1873 respectively, and a similar statement regarding the officers and servants of this House. He said he made this motion because a great deal had been said with regard to the number of employes in the Government offices. It had been stated that the salaries of employes had been largely increased by the present Government without sufficient reason, and also that the number had been largely increased. This had been denied by the Government. He asked for this statement so that they could compare one year with another, and see what were the facts with regard to the employes. He had no doubt himself that in one of the offices, at least, the employes had been increased very largely in numbers, and he desired to see what salaries were paid them. He also asked for a similar statement with regard to the officers of the House, and when they had that before them they would be better able to tell which was the party of economy and which the party of extravagance. He would reserve any further remarks until the returns were brought down.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said that the return asked for in that motion, except as related to '73, was already in possession of the House. He considered that, in making the comparison it was desired to make they should not only have information with regard to the employes of their own Government, but also with regard to other Governments. (Hear, hear.) He desired to know what officers and servants his hon. friend's party employed when they had the opportunity, and what conclusion they came to with regard to the salaries of such officers. He had not the slightest objection to the comparative statement, but he thought it should be as full as possible. He felt sure that his hon. friend would rejoice at his suggestion that they should have information also as to the House of Commons at Ottawa and the Legislative Assembly of Quebec. He would have no objection to the return of the hon. gentleman with the following addition to his motion: "Also

showing as far as may be the number of servants employed by the Government of the Dominion and by the Government of Quebec, and also of the House of Commons and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Quebec."

Mr. McCALL said he was much disappointed with the conduct of the Government because the salaries had been so increased, and if the same thing had been done by the Dominion and Quebec Governments, that was no excuse for them.

Mr. CAMERON characterized the proposition of the Premier as most extraordinary, and the comparison asked between the other Government expenses and those of this Province out of consonance with the principles advocated by hon. gentlemen in Opposition. All that was required was a comparative statement of the expenditure in this particular way by the present Government and that which they supplanted, and whether the principles they then advocated were not a hollow mockery. He contended that the amendment was unnecessary, and calculated by its extent, to keep back the information sought for a great length of time—certainly beyond the present session; and to this he strenuously objected. If the Government had increased the salaries of deserving officials, so as to put them on an equal footing with mercantile and commercial clerks, he was quite agreed with them; but if they also increased the number of officials, then he entirely differed with them, because he did not see that such an increase was at all necessary.

Mr. BOULTBEE objected to the motion, because the Government had no power to order such returns from either the Government of Quebec or the Dominion.

Mr. LAUDER raised a point of order. He argued that the motion as proposed to be amended took for granted that the Government had the power to order these returns from Quebec and the Dominion, whereas no power to make such order existed under the Constitution.

Mr. SPEAKER said he could not assume that the Government could not get this information either by commission or otherwise; therefore he ruled that the motion was in order.

Mr. LAUDER said it was a most unusual course that the Premier pursued in regard to this matter. He had no objection to the proposal so far as it was itself concerned, but he thought it would have the effect of delaying the arrival of the information, and on this score he was opposed to it.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said the hon. member for South Grey asked for a comparative statement, in order to show the country which was the party of economy, and which the party of reckless expenditure. The true way to give the House and the country that comparative statement was to show how their neighbours did, and that was what the Government were going to do. They desired that the people should know the whole truth, not merely a part of it; and the way to show them how the friends of hon. gentlemen opposite conducted similar affairs under their control, as well as to show them what the Government did, was to tell them the whole truth. When the hon. member for South Grey was before the people lately—and he was afraid being before them on that occasion afforded him no great satisfaction—(hear, hear)—he was not so anxious as he now appeared to be to consider parties in the Government of the Dominion and in this Province, respectively, as altogether separate and distinct. He told the people then that the affairs of this Province had been badly administered by the present Government, and concluded from that fact that the new Government at Ottawa should not be sustained. The proposition which the hon. gentleman had laid down to the people was one which applied both ways, and the same inference which the hon. gentleman was so fain to draw from the conduct of this Government when he thought it would do his friends some good, must also be drawn from the conduct of those friends when they had the power. But the hon. member for South Grey forgot, when he charged this Government before the people with increasing the salaries of officials, to inform them that the hon. member for East Toronto, the hon. member for Niagara, and every member of the Sandfield Macdonald Government in the House last year, voted for every increase proposed by the Government except one. (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman complained that there might be delay in bringing down the papers in the form proposed by the Attorney-General. As a matter of fact, it would suit the hon. gentleman's purpose quite well if they were brought down within a year, because, as everybody knew,