

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION — THIRD PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, Nov. 30.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

The House sat for some time with closed doors.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Mr. LAUDER introduced a Bill to amend the Administration of Justice Act, 1874.

The Bill was read the first time.

SELECT COMMITTEES.

Mr. MOWAT moved, That a Select Committee of seven members be appointed to act with Mr. Speaker in the control and management of the library of Parliament, to be composed as follows:—Messrs. Mowat, Crooks, Cameron, Hodgins, Meredith, McLeod, and Gibson."

Mr. CAMERON said that gave two members of the Opposition to five supporters of the Government. He gave the Government notice that on important Committees he intended to test the sense of the House as to whether that proportion was just.

Mr. MOWAT said he had simply substituted supporters of one side or the other for those who were on the Committee last year, but were not now in the House. He had no objection to add another member from the other side of the House.

Mr. CAMERON proposed to add Mr. Wills to the Committee.

Mr. MOWAT agreed to the amendment, and the motion was then carried.

Mr. MOWAT said a Committee had been appointed at two sessions to revise the rules, but other matters had interfered and they had never made a report. He proposed the re-appointment of the former Committee on the subject. He moved, therefore, "That the Select Committee appointed last session to revise the rules and regulations of the House be re-appointed for the same purpose, and that the said Committee consist of Messrs. Mowat, Crooks, Cameron, Hodgins, Meredith, and Hardy."

Mr. CAMERON suggested that Mr. Macdougall's name should be substituted for his own.

Mr. MOWAT agreed, and the motion as amended was carried.

Mr. MOWAT moved, "That a Special Committee of eleven members be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed lists of members to compose the select standing committees ordered by the House; to be composed as follows:—Messrs. Mowat, Wood, Cameron, Boulter, Hodgins, Finlayson, Meredith, Baxter, Scott, Hardy, and Gibson."

Mr. CAMERON proposed to add the name of Mr. Lauder.

Mr. MOWAT agreed, and the motion as amended was carried.

ESTIMATES.

Mr. MOWAT brought down a message from the Lieut.-Governor, signed by himself.

Mr. SPEAKER read the message, as follows:—

"The Lieut. Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the service of the Province for the year ending December 31st, 1876, also of certain sums for the services of the year 1875, and for balance to complete the year 1874, and recommends them to the Assembly.

"D. A. MACDONALD."

Mr. CROOKS moved "That the message of the Lieut. Governor, with the estimates, be referred to the Committee of Supply." Carried.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES OF THE COUNTY OF WELLINGTON.

Mr. MCGOWAN asked whether it is the intention of the Government to alter or interfere with the existing municipal boundaries of the county of Wellington?

Mr. MOWAT—It is not at present the intention of the Government to alter or interfere with the existing municipal boundaries of the county of Wellington.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROVINCIAL STA-

TUTES.

Mr. McLEOD asked whether it is the intention of the Government hereafter to distribute the statutes of this Province to the Reeves and Deputy Reeves gratis?

Mr. MOWAT—I find that the question which the hon. member asks is one which has been suggested on previous occasions. The reason why it was determined on previous occasions to continue the practice of not placing the Reeves and Deputy-Reeves upon the lists of official persons who receive the statutes is, that most of the Reeves were already magistrates and included in various Commissions. I see no reason for changing the practice which has prevailed in reference to a distribution of the statutes.

CANADA CAR COMPANY.

Mr. LAUDER moved for a return showing the total receipts by the Provincial Government from the Canada Car Company for the labour of convicts at the Central Prison, under the contract between the Government of Ontario and the Company, from the opening of the prison up to the present time. He remarked that the House had expected a large return from the Car Company for the present year. In view of the fact that the outlay had been great, and the House would be called upon to appropriate an additional amount for the coming year, hon. members should be put in possession of a return, showing the amount appropriated up to the latest period possible.

The motion was passed.

MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND SETTLEMENT ACT.

Mr. LAUDER moved for a return showing, 1st, the names of the several municipalities to which payments have been made by the Government under the Municipal Loan Fund Settlement Act; 2nd, the amounts paid to such municipalities, specifying principal and interest, and showing the dates of such payments; 3rd, the objects to which such sums paid were applied by the several municipalities. He thought the return brought down yesterday would supply in a large measure the information required.

Mr. CROOKS promised to afford any further information required.

The motion passed.

THE BOUNDARY QUESTION.

Mr. MACDOUGALL moved for a return of all papers and correspondence which may have passed between the Provincial Government or any of its members, and the Dominion Government or any of its members or Departments, on the subject of the northerly and westerly boundaries of this Province, and which are not already in the possession of this House. He presumed the question was of sufficient importance to justify him in submitting a motion asking for all the information respecting the boundary question in possession of the Government to be laid before the House at the earliest moment. He understood there had been, in addition to the report or memorandum which he had the honour to prepare for the Government of Ontario some years ago, two other reports by gentlemen who had been employed by the Government to make exhaustive enquiries into the subject, and the results of those enquiries had been embodied in reports prepared and forwarded to the Government. Up to the present time, however, he had not been able to obtain possession of that information, which might or might not be important; but the Legislature of the Province should surely have been placed in possession of that information before being called upon to legislate, as they were last session, upon that important subject. There need be no secrecy maintained; there was no necessity in cases of that kind to withhold information from members of the House and the people of the Province, and he trusted before the general question was discussed at all the fullest information possible would be laid before the House by the Government. It was said that one of the reports was prepared by Mr. Mills, a member of the Dominion Parliament, a gentleman whose information and research entitled his opinions to great weight in matters of that kind; a painstaking member of the House of Commons, whose constitutional knowledge was by some esteemed at a very high value. That gentleman, as he (Mr. Macdougall) had learned from himself, had given the question careful study, and embodied the result of his enquiries in a formal report. He had met with some gentlemen who had seen that report, but he was not aware any member of that House had perused it, except