

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

FIRST SESSION — THIRD PARLIAMENT.

FRIDAY, Dec. 3.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

By Mr. Wilson—From the Dresden and Oil Springs Railway, praying for an Act to amend their Act of Incorporation.

Mr. Springer—Petition to L. Colouhon for an Act to admit him Barrister at Law.

Hon. Mr. Currie—Petition from the Town Council of St. Catharines for an Act to incorporate them as a city.

MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE.

Mr. CURRIE introduced a Bill entitled "an Act respecting the franchise in Municipal Elections." It was read the first time.

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROVINCE.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said that before the orders of the day were called he wished to ask the Attorney-General when the reports on the Boundary Question would be brought down.

Mr. MOWAT—Probably on Monday.

THE BUDGET.

Mr. CROOKS said that in accordance with the usual custom in moving the House into Committee of Supply, he would proceed to lay before hon. members a statement of the condition of the financial affairs of the Province. Such a statement had been made only on three occasions when the accounts for the complete financial year had been in the hands of members. It was made by Mr. Wood in 1870, by Mr. Mackenzie in 1872, and by himself in 1873, after the House had been in possession of the transactions of the Government for the previous year. Honourable members would be able readily to understand from the public accounts of 1874 and the nine months' statement of 1875 what was the financial position of the Province. There appeared to be some doubt as to whether his statement of last year would bear investigation or not. He had then brought his statement to the 30th September, 1874, and he proposed now to take the same data as to the termination of the transactions of 1875, in order that as far as possible hon. members might have a proper basis for their comparisons. The amount he took credit for as the excess of our assets over our liabilities on the 30th September, 1874, was \$5,756,352. The statement he now presented would show that the surplus on the 30th September, 1875, was \$5,096,376. He would explain how the difference arose. Last year he had omitted to introduce some liabilities which had not then been ascertained, and which he had now included. He had also introduced the \$100,000 which had been added to the Railway Subsidy Fund, which was increasing as years went on, while our liability was diminishing. He had only had three payments to charge against it last year, but this year he had four. The difference of \$659,976 between our surplus last year and was easily explained by a reference to the liabilities which last year he did not charge against the surplus, and which the House would have to take into consideration in relation to the surplus. Quebec's share of Common School Fund collections since July, 1867, amounted to \$325,657. Aid to counties for gaols under Prison Inspection Act was estimated at \$60,000. From those statements hon. members would observe that the financial condition of the Province on 30th Sept., 1875, was substantially identical with the position at that date last year, notwithstanding the very large transactions that had taken place, and the large payments the Government had been called on to make in regard to the Railway Aid Fund, and the distribution of the surplus of \$3,000,000 to the municipalities. He would not weary the House by entering into the details of items which appeared as assets, and which formed part of the records of the various Departments. If hon. members desired any specific item he would be glad to