

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

FIRST SESSION — THIRD PARLIAMENT.

FRIDAY, Dec. 17.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

## PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Lauder—Of Hiram Cline *et al*, also of Alexander Aikman *et al*, also of Joseph M. Snider *et al*, also of James Husband *et al*, all of Trafalgar, praying for certain amendments to the Act incorporating the Hamilton and Northwestern Railway Company, respecting the grouping clauses.

## BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following Bills were introduced and read the first time:—

Mr. Lauder—To incorporate the Loyal Orange Association of Western Ontario.

Mr. Robt. D. Stewart—To incorporate the Loyal Orange Institution of Eastern Ontario.

Mr. Deroche—To confirm an arrangement made by the members of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, for the division of the property said congregation on its being divided into two congregations.

Mr. Deroche—To incorporate the Ontario Mineral Railway Company.

Mr. Wills—For the protection of Brakesmen on Railway Trains.

Mr. Hay—For the re-union of the North and South Ridings of Perth for registration purposes.

Mr. Currie—To incorporate the village of Grimsby.

Mr. Currie—To incorporate the city of St. Catharines, and to authorize it to negotiate a loan.

Mr. Hodgins—To amend and extend the Act incorporating the Synod of the Diocese of Ontario.

Mr. Bethune—Respecting the reference of matters of account to Referees.

Mr. Lauder—To confirm the appointment of the Trustees of Temperance street Church, Toronto.

Mr. Hodgins—To admit John William Shackleton as Provincial Land Surveyor.

Mr. Creighton—To further secure the Independence of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Mr. Clarke—To authorize the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto, with the consent of the Incumbent of St. Paul's Church, Lindsay, to sell certain lands in Lindsay.

Mr. Patterson (York)—Respecting the Lake Simcoe Railway Company.

Mr. Monk—To confirm a by-law changing the name of the Western of Canada Permanent Building and Savings Society to the Western of Canada Loan and Savings' Society.

Mr. Meredith—To change the name of the Huron and Erie Savings' and Loan Society to the Huron and Erie Loan and Savings' Company.

Also—To amend an Act of the late Province of Canada, 29 and 30 Victoria, Chap. 16.

Mr. Striker—To authorize the Law Society of Ontario to admit Fred. Van Norman as a barrister-at-law.

Mr. Meredith—To incorporate the United Empire Club.

Mr. Paxton—To incorporate the Port Perry, Scugog, and Cartwright Road and Bridge Company.

Mr. O'Donoghue—To amend the Act respecting the *Institut Canadien Francais*, Ottawa, and to extend the powers of that association.

Mr. Cameron—To authorize the sale of certain lands by the trustees of the Toronto Burial Grounds.

Mr. Cameron—To amend the Act relating to the election of school trustees for the city of Toronto.

## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Mr. MOWAT, in moving the first reading of a Bill respecting certain proceedings at municipal elections, said that the object of the Bill was two-fold. First, to remove certain doubts which, it appeared, were entertained in some municipalities as to whether those who had an income franchise could

vote at the approaching municipal elections. He did not believe there was any solid ground for that doubt, but it probably arose from the fact that there was no express provision in that respect. Since doubts had arisen, he desired to remove them by inserting a special provision in the Act. The second object of the Bill was to remedy another evil which had suggested itself in regard to the working of the Ballot Act at municipal elections. In a city, for example, electors had a right to vote for Mayor as well as for aldermen. There was no express provision in the existing Act to prevent a dishonest elector from casting his ballot for Mayor and alderman at one polling-place, and afterwards proceeding to another polling-place and delivering a second vote for Mayor. As there was no provision for tracing votes, a provision was necessary to amend the existing law. He therefore proposed there should be two ballot papers—one for Mayor and another for aldermen. A voter would vote for Mayor in the ward in which he (the voter) resided, and if he had no vote there, then at the polling-place where he gave his vote for aldermen. When votes for Mayor were given outside of the Ward in which an elector resided, then the oath might be put to the voter. A number of clauses had been prepared with a view to carrying out the two objects he had stated.

Mr. HARGRAFT said he would like to call the attention of the Attorney-General to another defect in the law respecting the election of councillors. Every few years the day for the nomination of such councillors fell upon Christmas, and as there were many who did not wish it to be upon that day, he thought the law should be changed so as to bring the nomination upon the day following—Tuesday.

Mr. MEREDITH asked the Attorney-General if he proposed to alter the law with regard to elections in towns.

Mr. MOWAT said he did, as well as in townships and villages divided into wards.

Mr. MEREDITH said as the law now was in towns, a man could, if he chose, cast more than one vote as well as in cities.

The Bill was read the first time.

## PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. MOWAT moved for leave to introduce a Bill, entitled an Act respecting the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The chief object of the Bill was for the purpose of defining the privileges of this House, with a view to placing these matters beyond a doubt, so far as this House could pass Acts respecting those rights essential to the due discharge of their duties. The Bill would be found the same in substance as the one which had been passed by the Quebec Legislature. He had, with the concurrence of his colleagues, taken that course, because it was regarded as doubtful how far they had a right to legislate in that direction, and the Quebec Act had been allowed to become law, though in the report of the Minister of Justice of Canada he had expressed his doubts as to whether some portions of the law were such as the Legislature of the Province had a right to enact. The Minister of Justice having, however, taken the view that it was merely a doubtful matter, had not disallowed the Act. He (Mr. Mowat) thought it was not desirable to pass an Act which the Dominion Government would not feel at liberty to sanction, and as the Quebec Act had been sanctioned by that Government, he had thought it advisable to make this Bill substantially the same as the one in Quebec. He had altered the language in some ways, but this was nearly all he had done. They had introduced a clause for the purpose of providing by statutory enactment against any member of the House receiving pay for business done in the House. (Hear, hear.) Hon. members would recollect that a case of this kind had come before the House during last session, and he believed it had been felt, and would now be agreed, by both sides of the House that such practices should not be allowed. He proposed not only to declare them illegal, but to provide that any member found guilty of them would lose his seat. He proposed to go a little further than that, and to provide that the partners of professional men who were members of the House should not be allowed to follow such practices. He had no doubt that this was not the law at present; but he had thought it advisable to go a little beyond what the law now provided, in order to protect this House sufficiently, and he had introduced a clause for that purpose. There had also been considerable discussion on another point. It