

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

FIRST SESSION — THIRD PARLIAMENT.

JAN. 12, 1876.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

## PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Clarke (Wellington)—Of the township Council of Luther, praying that no part of said township may be attached to the village of Arthur.

Mr. Lauder—Of J. McCuaig *et al*, of Toronto, praying that grain may be free from taxation.

Mr. Hunter—Of County Council of Grey for certain amendments to the Municipal Act.

Two—Of the County Council of Grey, praying that the number of tavern licenses be reduced, and that no license be given for saloons, and that no license be given where other goods are sold.

Hon. Mr. Gow—Of Mrs. Rosanna McElderry and 2,010 others, of Guelph, for a similar effect.

## BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. MONK introduced a Bill to facilitate travel on snow roads.

The Bill was read the first time.

## PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. FRASER presented the first report of the Committee on Private Bills. The report was received.

## COUNTY COURT JUDGES.

Mr. MOWAT introduced a Bill respecting County Court Judges. He explained that the object of the Bill was to utilize in the most effective manner the local judiciary of the country. It was well known how unequal our counties were in regard to population, means of intercommunication, wealth, and the amount of business which had to be transacted by our county judges. Take the counties which had only one judge. The county of Middlesex had a population of 82,595; Grey, 58,395; Wentworth, 57,000; Bruce, 47,000; while Prince Edward had 20,000; Halton, 22,000; and Haldimand, 24,000. Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry, with a population of 58,288, had two judges; Perth had 46,536, with one judge; and Ontario 45,890, with two judges; Renfrew and Peterboro' had each 27 townships, with one judge; while Brant had 6; Waterloo, 5; Peel, 5; Halton, 4; and Prince Edward, 6. There were all sorts of inequalities of this kind. The object of the Bill was to get the full benefit of whatever judicial strength existed in the country. There was also the difficulty caused by judges becoming acquainted with persons who came before them as suitors, which created a dissatisfaction which was not well founded, but which existed among the public. He proposed, in order to remedy these evils, that such portions of the Province as from time to time it might be found convenient to set apart should be formed into districts or groups of counties. He did not propose that the whole Province should be so divided, but that the division should take place wherever it would serve to give confidence in the administration of justice in those localities or to equalize the division of labour. The Act provided that districts might be formed of two, three, or four adjoining counties, and that the judges should perform duty in rotation, according to arrangements made by themselves for the purpose. They did not propose to lay down any cast iron rule, but to adopt elastic rules to suit the convenience of the people and of the judges.

The Bill was read the first time.

## BROCK'S MONUMENT.

Mr. CURRIE asked what had been done by the Government of this Province since the first day of July, 1874, towards acquiring the property at Queenston on which was erected the monument of the late Major-General Brock. He also wished to know if it was the intention of the Government to acquire such property, and make regulations for the proper care and management of the same?

Mr. MOWAT said he had the pleasure of stating that the Government had made arrangements by which the property referred to by the hon. member would be transferred to the Province. (Cheers.) An Order in Council had been made by which a bargain