

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

FIRST SESSION — THIRD PARLIAMENT.

MONDAY, Jan. 17.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

REPORTS.

Mr. Frazer presented the fourth report of the Committee on Private Bills.

Mr. Pardee presented the third report of the Committee on Railways.

Mr. Ferris presented the report of the Select Committee on Bill No. 86, to enable corporations and institutions incorporated outside of Ontario, to do business within this Province.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Coutts—Bill to amend the Municipal Acts so far as they relate to drainage works.

Mr. Macdougall—Bill to fix and determine the period for the annual meeting of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Crooks—Bill to amend the Act relating to the Toronto General Hospital.

THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. CROOKS moved the first reading of the Bill respecting the Educational Department. He did not propose to enter into any explanations in connection with the policy of the measure, but would reserve these for the second readings, which he proposed to take on Wednesday. He might mention, however, that the proposed Bill had for its object the vesting in the Executive Council those powers and duties which by law were now possessed by the Council of Public Instruction, and the relegating to a member of the Executive Council those functions which now rested with the Chief Superintendent of Education. The measure was therefore extremely simple. It of course included certain provisions which the Independence of Parliament Act required should be made when a new office of the kind was created.

The Bill was read the first time.

ADMISSION OF ATTORNEYS AND BARRISTERS TO PRACTISE.

Mr. MOWAT said that before the Orders of the Day were called he wished to state for the information of hon. members who were interested in a large number of Bills now before the House providing for the admission of attorneys and barristers under special circumstances, that in accordance with the policy of the Government in regard to such matters a general law would be passed giving the powers and duties which the House now enjoyed to the Law Society. A Bill for that purpose had been introduced by the hon. member for West Elgin, the principle of which had been sanctioned by and would receive the support of the Government. He took it for granted that the Bill would become law, and that the Private Bills should not be proceeded with until it was passed.

Mr. MEREDITH thought that a suggestion of this kind should not have been made until after the proposed general measure had passed the third reading. The precedent was a bad one, for the Government had no control of the Bill; it might be withdrawn at any time.

Mr. MOWAT said he had taken care to see that the Bill would go through before he had mentioned the matter to the House. He would not have made the suggestion if he had not felt sure the Bill would not be withdrawn.

Mr. MACDOUGALL wished to know whether the Bill would make the admission of barristers and attorneys more difficult or more facile than at present, and whether it was practically intended to allow the Law Society to retain their power of finally deciding upon the admission. He believed the feeling of the country was against a close corporation like the Law Society having such powers as they had enjoyed, instead of leaving the power in the House.

Mr. MOWAT said the object of the Bill was to make the admission more free, and to dispense with various matters which were now required. He pointed out that the Law Society was not now a close corporation, but a representative body, of great service to the public and the profession.

After some remarks from Mr. Merrick, the matter dropped.

PRIVATE BILLS.

The following Private Bills were advanced