

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

THIRD PARLIAMENT--SECOND SESSION.

FRIDAY, 5th Jan, 1877.

The following is the conclusion of Friday night's debate:—

Mr. BELL said he was not in a position to go into this matter to night, as he had not been aware that the discussion would come on. Hon. gentlemen opposite did not seem to agree that they should "render unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's." (Laughter.) He thought the principle of taxing all buildings in a city for the roads and protection and light which were provided for them was right. He did not go the length of Mr. Hallam's Committee, but he hoped the Government would give the matter due consideration. He did not think the University of Toronto should hold 35 or 40 acres for lease or sale without any taxation.

Mr. CROOKS—The lessees are taxable.

Mr. BELL—As soon as the land is leased, but the rest of the land is exempt.

Mr. HODGINS—It is Provincial property.

Mr. BELL said the citizens derived no benefit from it.

Mr. CROOKS—They get the Park for nothing.

Mr. BELL denied that. The city had to expend very large sums on the roads in the Park, and the municipality did not derive a fraction of advantage. He was in favour of taxing churches and the incomes of judges, and assessing everything at its proper value. He believed the adherents of every church were able and willing to pay up the taxes. Government officials were no more entitled to consideration than working men or clerks in stores.

Mr. HAY said the hon. gentleman forgot that the municipality was the servant of Cæsar, and that the command was not to render to Cæsar's servants the things that are Cæsar's. (Laughter.) He pointed out that the member for Grey had, as usual, managed to dodge the question at issue. The agitation in the country had not been in relation to bank stocks or building societies, but in reference to the exemptions of Government property and Church property. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WILSON expressed his regret at the manner in which this motion had been brought before the House. He looked upon the Address as most satisfactory, but he considered that any property benefited by municipal law should bear its proportion of the municipal taxation. He denied that this was simply a city question. In the constituency which he represented this had been the great question for some time. He thought the Opposition should have come down with some policy on this subject, and not have brought the subject before the House in this indefinite way. The hon. member for Stormont always opposed any measure which might touch the interests of Osgoode Hall, but he did not see any difference between any clerks in a private institution and those in Osgoode Hall. He did not see why the judges should not be taxed, or why a man should be taxed to support a faith he had no confidence in. The exemption of churches and ministers was a relic of the old Church and State system, but the country had long ago declared that it would not support any particular Church. As he did not think the country was at present in a position to consider this question, and the Opposition had no policy on the subject, he should vote against the amendment.

Mr. DEROCHE said the question of taxing the Crown Lands had been spoken of, and this was one that affected his constituency very considerably. Taking the township of Barrie as an example, he found that if the Crown Lands in that township were taxed, while the people of the township would only pay taxes on about \$17,000, the Government would be taxed on about \$60,000. Applying this rule to all the property of the Government, there would be a very heavy drain on the resources of the Province. (Hear, hear.) There had been no agitation on the question throughout the country, except in so far as it had originated with the Council of Toronto. Where petitions had been passed by County Councils, it had been without much discussion. If the matter was to be acted upon it should be in consequence of a general opinion throughout the country, and not at the suggestion of the