

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

THIRD PARLIAMENT—SECOND SESSION.

THURSDAY, Feb. 1.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Lauder—Of C. Page *et al*; of Wm. Hewitt *et al*; of John Roland *et al*; of M. Staunton *et al*; of J. W. Gale *et al*; praying for certain amendments to the Act incorporating the Toronto Street Railway.

Mr. Boulter—Of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons, praying for amendments to their Act of Incorporation.

Mr. Boulter—Of Thomas Walker *et al*, of Stirling, for the re-opening of the Stirling High School.

Mr. McDougall (Middlesex)—Of Thomas Hay *et al*, of Alton, for certain amendments to the Assessment Act with respect to the exemption clauses.

Mr. Watterworth—Of the County Council of Middlesex, for certain amendments to the Municipal Act.

Mr. Kean—Of Loyal Orange District Lodge of Orilla, for an Act to incorporate the Loyal Orange Associations of Ontario, East and West.

Mr. Bell—Of R. W. Riddell and 5,000 others of Toronto, praying for amendments in the License Act, providing that no more reductions be made in the number of licenses, and that taverns be allowed to remain open until 11 o'clock on Saturday nights.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES.

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

Mr. Fraser presented the eighth report of the Private Bills Committee.

Mr. Boulter presented the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Acts respecting Dentistry.

MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN COBOURG.

Mr. HARGRAFF moved the discharge of the order for the second reading of the Bill to enable the town of Cobourg to aid certain manufacturing establishments, and that the Bill be recommitted to the Private Bills Committee. Carried.

CONSTABLES.

Mr. MOWAT moved the first reading of a Bill respecting constables. The motion was carried and the Bill read the first time.

RETURN.

Mr. Wood presented a return of copies of the minutes of the meetings of the Senate of the University of Toronto during 1874-5-6 relating to the affiliation of medical schools with the University of Toronto.

THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were read the third time and passed:—

To alter and amend the survey of the lands of the Canada Company in the townships of Bissonnet and McGillivray.—Mr. Pardee.

For the admission of William E. Idard as a Provincial Land Surveyor.—Mr. Wilson.

To amend the Act of Incorporation of the Canadian Literary Institute of Woodstock.—Mr. Mowat.

To consolidate the debt of the Port Hope Harbour.—Mr. Rosevear.

Respecting the Peel General Manufacturing Company.—Mr. Chisholm.

Respecting St Paul's Church, in the village of Almonte.—Mr. Code.

To amend the Act incorporating the Upper Canada Bible Society.—Mr. Mowat.

To authorize the town of Dundas to pass a by-law exempting the Canada Screw Company from taxes.—Mr. McMahon.

THE LICENSE BILL.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill to amend the Acts respecting the sale of fermented or spirituous liquors, Mr. Clarke (Wellington) in the chair.

Clause 19 passed with slight verbal amendments.

Section 20 was allowed to stand.

The 22nd clause was struck out.

Clause 23 passed with verbal amend-

ments.

On the 24th section, extending the right of search given to officers,

Mr. MEREDITH objected to the proposed interference with the liberty of the subject.

Mr. FRASER said that it was a most unlikely thing for any police officer or inspector, who was fit for his position to enter a private house for the wilful purpose of disturbing the occupants. For his part he thought that the regulations with regard to those who sold liquors without a license should be of the most stringent kind, even more stringent than those applying to holders of licenses.

Mr. MEREDITH contended that even if there was a chance of such a wrong being committed occasionally, it should not be permitted by the Act.

Mr. FRASER said that if the premises of the license holders should be open to search, so should the houses of those who had not a license.

Mr. CURRIE pointed out that the right of search was only allowed when the person had the reputation of selling liquor contrary to law.

Mr. ROSS said that this right of search was one of the most essential features of the whole Act, and should not be interfered with. The great evil to be contended with was not so much the selling of liquor during prohibited hours, as its sale by unlicensed persons.

Mr. LAUDER said that the same right of search should not be allowed in the case of merely suspected private houses as in the case of taverns. It was rather high-handed to extend the right of search in the former case. He believed an information should first be laid.

Mr. CURRIE said that according to that contention if a number of men were seen coming out of a suspected house wiping their mouths and wearing the peculiarly happy countenances which were usual on such occasions, a policeman would have no right to go in and see whether the law was observed.

Mr. CRIGHTON said that though he held the privacy of private houses as high as any one could, he approved of this provision, as he believed that it would be found necessary in order to carry out the intention of the law.

Mr. MEREDITH said that the Bill was conferring a right of search to policemen in regard to unlicensed dealers which was not allowed even in the cases of suspected theft. The object of the law would, he feared, be defeated by such a provision.

Mr. FRASER said that this provision had been in force before, and if there were many cases of wrong doing on the part of the police or inspector under this clause he had not heard of them.

Mr. MEREDITH moved that the words "or reported to be sold" be struck out. Lost.

The section then passed.

The 25th section passed with slight amendment.

On clause 26,

Mr. CROOKS explained, in reply to Mr. Code, that the intention of the law was to give the municipalities the excess of the fund over the specified amount. There had been some doubts as to the construction of the Act as regarded this provision, but they were removed by the Bill.

Mr. MEREDITH said he could see no necessity for appointing an inspector in those counties which had passed the Dunkin Act.

Mr. CROOKS said that those who had been instrumental in carrying the Dunkin Bill had themselves asked that the machinery of the License Act should be put in force in these counties, as without it the Dunkin Act would be nugatory.

Mr. MERRICK thought that counties passing the Dunkin Act should not be asked to pay so large an amount for expenses as other municipalities.

Mr. CROOKS said they would not be expected to pay so large an amount as the others.

Mr. BARR advocated appointing detectives in counties where the Dunkin Act was in force instead of inspectors.

Mr. WOOD said the inspectors had more trouble in carrying out the law in municipalities where the Dunkin Act was in force than in municipalities where it was not.

Mr. HARGRAFF considered that the Province ought to pay the expenses in coun-