

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

THIRD PARLIAMENT--SECOND SESSION.

FRIDAY, Feb. 2.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. McCraney—Of A. Treviso and others, of Dresden, praying for aid to the Huron and Erie Railway.

By Mr. Wigle—Of the Township Council of Anderson, praying for aid to enable them to pay the bonus to the Canada Southern Railway.

By Mr. Merriok—Of thirteen Orange Lodg's, praying for the incorporation of the Orange Association.

Mr. Deacon—Of the County Council of Renfrew, for amendments to the Municipal Act.

Mr. Deacon—Of the County Council of Renfrew, praying that the Ontario Medical Act may be so amended as to permit females to practise midwifery without license.

Mr. Deacon—Of the County Council of Renfrew, praying that the townships of Hegarty, Sherwood, Jones, Richards, and Burns may be united into one municipality, and as such annexed to the County of Renfrew, and that the Townships of Clara and Maria may be annexed to the Township of Head.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES.

Mr. Fraser presented the Report of the Private Bills Committee.

Mr. Pardee presented the Report of the Railway Committee.

PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS.

Mr. HODGINS moved an Order of the House for: 1st. Copy of the report of Public Works of the late Province of Canada, dated 3rd April, 1856, on the probable cost of erecting Parliamentary buildings in the city of Toronto. 2nd. Report of any steps taken by such Department or by the Government of the late Province of Canada for the selection of a site for such Parliamentary buildings in the University Park at the head of the College Avenue, pursuant to the Act 16th Victoria, ch. 161, and for the sale of the land and water lots mentioned in section 4 of the said Act. 3rd. A statement showing the total amount expended for repairs of the Parliamentary and departmental buildings and for rents and repairs of temporary offices since 1st July, 1867. 4th. An estimate of the value of the land and buildings now used for Parliamentary and departmental buildings and an estimate of the probable cost of erecting new public buildings for such purposes. He said that in making the motion, he quite concurred with the resolutions which had been passed by the old Parliament of Canada, that all matters connected with the selection of a site and the erection of new buildings should be put off until the Government were prepared to submit to the House a statement of the estimated expenditures for the erection of the necessary public buildings. Whatever might be the views of hon. members as to the erection of new buildings, it was quite clear that they would be groping in the dark to a great extent until they knew the probable cost of new buildings. The question had come before the old Parliament of Canada many years before Confederation, and estimates had been prepared by the then Department of Public Works. There had been three different estimates sent in by the Department as to the probable cost of such buildings. He did not think that any hon. member should be either afraid or ashamed to discuss the question of erecting new buildings, for any one who looked at the present structures, or was aware of the distress suffered by those who had to sit in the House, would come to no other conclusion than that they were a disgrace to the Province. (Hear, hear.) Every one who had entered from the Wellington-street side was greeted with a heavy breath of foul air on coming into the building. (Hear, hear.) The whole structure was of such a character as to lead no one to the belief that there had been much artistic taste displayed in putting up the building and its additions. (Hear, hear.) The grounds, too, were in anything but a creditable state, as the few scattered flowers and scrubby trees which were found in them were all opposite the Treasurer's Depart-