

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

THIRD PARLIAMENT--SECOND SESSION.

TUESDAY, Feb. 6.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Scott—Of Nicol Kingsmill *et al*, also of W. C. Campbell, *et al*, also of Samuel Stern *et al*, all of Toronto, severally praying for the incorporation of the People's Gas Company, with all the powers enjoyed by the Consumers' Gas Company.

Mr. Coutts—Of the Town Council of Chatham, for amendments to the Municipal Act with respect to Houses of Refuge.

Mr. Coutts—Of the Canada Company, for amendments to the Municipal Drainage Act.

Mr. Coutts—Of Trustees of School Section No. 7, Dover East; also of Trustees of School Section No. 1, Tully; also of Trustees of School Section No. 5, Dover East, for amendment to the Education Bill.

Mr. McCraney—Of N. H. Stevens *et al*, of Harwich; also of R. A. Tompkins *et al*, of Blenheim, praying for aid to the Erie and Huron Railway.

EXPLANATION.

Mr. LAUDER said that he observed that in the minutes of the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee, held this morning, it was stated that the Committee had adjourned for want of a quorum. He had entered the Committee-room this morning about twenty minutes after ten, and had found that the Chairman was in his seat, while beside him were Messrs. Ballantyne, Gibson, and Striker. The Treasurer was in the adjoining room and the member for Hamilton was at the door. He (Mr. Lauder) had told those in the room to consider him present, so that there might be a quorum. He had then gone to the coat-room for a short time, and the Committee had adjourned—according to the clerk's minutes—for want of a quorum. He was proceeding to read from the minutes of the Committee when

Mr. FRASER said that the hon. gentleman was clearly out of order in bringing before the House a part of the proceedings of the Committee without the order of the Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER held that no allusion could be made to the proceedings of a Select Committee until it has reported. It has been held that even a motion upon notice, arraigning the conduct of a Committee before it has made its report, is irregular: 62 Han., 819; also 99 Han., 1,317. The rule upon this subject is based upon a standing rule of the English House of Commons, which in terms is only applicable to Select Committees or Bills. This rule, however, has been frequently held to apply to all Select Committees, as in the case of a Committee on Iron-clads: 193 Han., 1,124.

INCORPORATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Mr. WIDDIFIELD moved the third reading of the Bill for the incorporation of the Conference of the Christian Church in Ontario.

Mr. MOWAT said that he had carefully examined the Bill, and had found that there were certain powers conferred by it which would be impossible under the General Act.

The motion was carried, and the Bill read a third time.

THIRD READINGS.

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

Mr. Macdougall (Simcoe)—To incorporate the Niagara and St. Catharines Railroad and Steamboat Company.

Mr. Scott—To incorporate the William Hall, Peterborough, Protestant Poor Trust.

Mr. Scott—Respecting the Huron and Quebec Railway Company.

AMENDMENT OF ACTS OF LAST SESSION.

On the motion of Mr. MOWAT, the Bill to amend and repeal certain enactments of the last session of the Legislature of this Province was referred back to Committee, amended, reported, and concurred in.

MORTGAGES AND SALES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Mr. MOWAT moved the second reading of the Bill respecting mortgages and sales of personal property.

The Bill was read the second time.