

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

## THIRD PARLIAMENT--SECOND SESSION.

TUESDAY, Feb. 13.

The Speaker took the chair at 3:15 p.m.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Clarke (Wellington) presented the third report of the Printing Committee.

### THIRD READINGS.

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

To incorporate the Ontario Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada—Mr. Graham.

Respecting the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Hamilton—Mr. Williams.

To incorporate the Industrial Exhibition Company—Mr. Cameron.

### FARMERS' SONS' FRANCHISE.

Mr. FRASER, in moving the second reading of the Bill to give the right of voting to farmers' sons in certain cases, said he had already fully explained the purport of the Bill, and did not, therefore, intend to offer any extended remarks at the present time. In Committee he would suggest two or three verbal amendments, beyond which he had no alterations to propose. He did not purpose at this stage to follow the objections made to the Bill in regard to limiting its provisions to a certain class, as these objections might be raised to the franchise as it at present stood.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) said the hon. member for East Toronto had a resolution to propose in reference to this Bill. As that gentleman was not present, he hoped the order would not be pressed.

The order was allowed to stand.

### SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE.

On the motion of Mr. CROOKS, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the following resolution:—

"That this House doth approve of the Order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, dated the third day of February, 1877, respecting the School of Practical Science, which Order and the accompanying memorandum therein referred to is as follows:—

"The Committee of Council have had under consideration the annexed memorandum of the honourable the Minister of Education, respecting the 'School of Practical Science,' dated the 30th day of January, 1877, in which, under the circumstances therein mentioned, he recommends that, with the approval of the Legislative Assembly, your Honour will be pleased to sanction the sale of the property acquired by the 'School of Practical Science' to the Toronto 'Mechanics' Institute,' for the purposes of the Institute, for the sum of twenty-eight thousand dollars, in cash, and that out of the proceeds the sum of twenty thousand dollars be applied in building a physical laboratory near the University, and that the residue, being the sum of eight thousand dollars, be applied for the purchase of the necessary apparatus, and that the annual appropriation of the Legislature for the maintenance of the 'School of Practical Science' (not exceeding \$5,600) be applied towards the salaries of the proposed instructors in engineering, the assistant in chemistry, the attendant in mineralogy, and for incidental expenses.

"The Committee beg to advise that the said recommendation be approved of by your Honour, and that the farther recommendations and suggestions contained in the memorandum aforesaid, for the conduct of the said 'School of Practical Science,' be also approved of by your Honour."

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) did not believe that the young men who went to the University would feel disposed to avail themselves of this particular school any more than ordinary students availed themselves of the School of Practical Science under the original state of things. If the special purpose for which the building was intended failed it would be adapted to no other purpose. He would not take upon himself the responsibility of making any serious objection to the Bill, but he trusted the Government would pause before deciding to hazard the experiment.

Mr. CROOKS said that the idea of those who originally reported upon the School of Practical Science was to establish an institution which could afford training in physical science instead of the ordinary mathematical and classical course. However, the scarcity of students would be an objection to the original scheme, as involving an expenditure not justified by the result. A reference to a memorandum he had submitted would show that of the departments of studies in which it was likely an institution of the kind suggested by him would go hand in hand along with the ordinary departments of university training, there were no fewer than four chairs in University College which could be utilized for the instruction of those students desirous of obtaining information in physical science, viz., the chairs of chemistry, natural philosophy, geology and mineralogy, and natural history and botany. This theoretical instruction could be supplemented by the practical training of the laboratory, and the students would obtain an amount of instruction that could not fail to be advantageous.

In reply to Mr. Macdougall (Simcoe),

Mr. CROOKS said there might be students of this School of Practical Science without connection with the University whatever. Students might come from the Normal or other schools. There was a wide-spread and growing desire among those training for school teachers to become better acquainted with physical science, and be able to perform experiments in those sciences of which they were expected to impart a slight knowledge. Whatever the position of those now teaching such subjects, they owed their acquirements in a great measure to the four chairs of the University associated with the aim of the proposed school, and no doubt their attainments would have been greater had they had such opportunities as those that this school proposed to supply. The number attending the mathematical classes was now ten times as great as it was ten years ago, and the same would be found to be the case with the School of Practical Science. He therefore advocated the carrying out of the plans on a moderate scale. He was confident that the House would only from year to year be called upon to acknowledge the utility of this school by assisting it.

Mr. MERRICK said few, if any, of the students of the University follow engineering as a profession, and to further the interests of the latter the School of Technology was established. The promoter of this Bill now proposed to dispose of that property for \$28,000, while it cost \$35,000. The House had every year characterized this expenditure as unjustifiable on any grounds whatever. He argued that the School of Practical Science should be located in the existing premises if it were found necessary or advantageous to the country to have such a school. If it were afterwards found impracticable, as he was convinced it would be, the existing building could be disposed of, and the amount paid into the Exchequer. He said it would cost several thousand dollars to educate each student, and called for more convincing arguments of the necessity of such a school before he could endorse the proposal. He said that it was the custom to lay before the House plans and specifications for any proposal of such a nature before asking for any appropriation of money. He proposed to ask this House if it was prepared to countenance such an appropriation without such plans being produced, and expressed his intention of making a motion in opposition to such an expenditure.

Mr. LAUDER said that since the establishment of the School of Technology \$58,775 had been expended upon it, and it was now proposed to sell it for \$28,000. The original intention of the School of Technology was to afford practical instruction, based upon practical experiments made in the presence of professors, to students in engineering, and to educate the artisan classes by means of evening classes in science. He did not think that the Art students of the University would attend the lectures of the single professor it was proposed to engage. He objected to the appropriation because no specifications were given of the new building. It cost the country \$42,467 last year for the maintenance of the University College, and it was now proposed to add \$5,600 to its ordinary expenditure under the Treasurer's scheme. He contended that the country would not sanction this extra charge upon the consolidated revenue. University College itself failed to attract the young men of the country as it should do, and he deprecated further expense