

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

THIRD PARLIAMENT--SECOND SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 15.

The Speaker took the chair at 3:10 p.m.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented :—

By Mr. Wilson—Petition of the County Council of Eglar, praying that certain kinds of property may be exempt from taxation.

By the Attorney General—Bill to apply the Municipal Law to certain Townships in the District of Algoma.

THE MASTERS' AND SERVANTS' ACT.

Mr. O'Donoghue introduced a Bill to amend the Masters' and Servants' Act, which was read the first time.

INDEMNITY OF MEMBERS.

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex) called attention to a list published in the *Mail* newspaper purporting to be a list of the members who voted on the motion to reduce the indemnity in Committee. He regretted that any member should deem it seemly to furnish such a list. He wanted to state that the list was incorrect in many instances.

Mr. RICHARDSON considered it a breach of Parliamentary etiquette for any member to supply such information.

Mr. CURRIE said it was well known to the House that the list was incorrect. He regretted that it should have been supplied by any member of the House. He begged to call attention to the fact that when the resolution recommending the indemnity at \$800 was reported from the Committee of Supply, it was passed in the House without a dissentient voice.

Mr. CAMERON said he did not think it could be reprehensible to publish the list complained of if the reporter could hear it in the gallery. He could not find fault with a member giving such information as long as he gave it correctly to the best of his knowledge. There was no evidence however that the information was obtained from a member. He was out of the House when the indemnity was concurred in, and had he been present he would have taken occasion to divide the House upon the point.

THIRD READINGS.

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

To incorporate the Metropolitan Street Railway of Toronto—Mr. Cameron.

To incorporate the town of Belleville as a city—Mr. Willr.

To extend and define the limits of the town of Orillia.—Mr. Kean.

To encourage agriculture, horticulture, arts, and manufactures.—Mr. Wood.

FARMERS' SONS' FRANCHISE.

On the order for the third reading of the Bill to give the right of voting to farmers' sons in certain cases,

Mr. CAMERON moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. MACDOUGALL, "That all after the word 'that' be omitted and the following substituted:—While farmers' sons, from their intelligence and personal qualifications, are as well entitled to the elective franchise as any other class not possessing the requisite property or income qualification, still to confer upon them this privilege solely in right of their fathers' property and without the qualifications that would entitle the sons of any other of Her Majesty's subjects to the right of voting would be to confer special privileges upon them, and to discriminate between different classes of the people contrary to the genius and spirit of the Constitution, and in derogation of the equal rights of all." In moving the amendment, he said that the Bill was one of the worst description, inasmuch as it tended to legislate for a class. The Bill itself would be injurious to the farming community, although it professed to benefit them. It would be endorsing, as it were, the old principle of primogeniture—a thing which he had supposed Reformer., at all events, had cast into oblivion years ago. It was a principle to which they expressed themselves opposed during the agitation that led to the abolition of the right of primogeniture. He could not see in this Bill anything else than an attempt to introduce it again. He proposed to take the case of a farmer holding twenty acres, which constituted a farm according to the Bill, having two sons over the age of twenty-one. The value of the farm was not sufficient to give three