

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Third Parliament—Third Session.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

Friday, January 18.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

## PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Dawson—Of John Hogg and others, of Algoma, for the re-adjustment of the representation of the District of Algoma.

By Mr. Bethune—Synod of Diocese of Toronto, for an Act to amend their Act of incorporation.

By Mr. Scott—Toronto and Ottawa Railway, for an Act to make valid certain by-laws granting aid to said railway, and for other purposes.

By Mr. Scott—Midland Railway Company, for an Act to authorize the redemption of mortgage bonds and for the issue of new bonds.

By Mr. Scott—Town Council of Peterborough, for an Act to make valid certain by-laws and for other purposes.

By Mr. Pardee—Township Council of North Norwich, for an Act to amend the Act respecting the Port Dover and Lake Huron Railway.

By Mr. Hodgins—City Council of St. Catharines, for an Act amending the Act authorizing them to construct water-works.

By Mr. Cameron—Corporation of city of Toronto, for making office of Aldermen tenable for three years by an annual retirement of one representative from each ward, and for making the Mayor elective by the Council.

By Mr. Dawson—Wm. Murdock and others, for an Act authorizing the construction of embankments in order to reclaim certain lands in Scugog Lake.

By Mr. O'Donoghue—Mrs. Caroline Sweetland, of Ottawa, for an Act to amend the Act respecting the estate of the late Nicholas Sparks.

By Mr. Cameron—Frank Smith and others, of Toronto, that the Mercer estate be conveyed and confirmed to Andrew Mercer, Jr., and his heirs.

By Mr. Sinclair—Henry Wright and others, of the counties of Wellington and Grey, to incorporate the Saugeen Valley Railway Company.

By Mr. Flesher—John Hidd and others, of the electoral district of Caldwell, that the Mercer estate be given to Andrew Mercer, Jr.

By Mr. O'Donoghue—Corporation of City of Ottawa, for the consolidation of the Debenture Debt of the city.

By Mr. Wilson—John Dobson and others, of Lindsay, for an Act to incorporate the Lindsay and Bobcaygeon Railway Company.

By Mr. Ross—Municipal Council of the village of Wingham, county of Huron, for an Act to convert the village into a town.

By Mr. Williams—D. B. Ghisholm and others, to incorporate the Crown Assurance Company.

By Mr. McGowan—Joseph Draper and others, for the construction of the Arthur Junction Railway.

By Mr. Williams—John Barry and others, of Hamilton, for an Act to incorporate the Equitable Fire Insurance Company of Hamilton.

Petitions in favour of the abolition of tax exemptions were presented as follows:—  
From the ratepayers of the city of Toronto; from the ratepayers of Port Dalhousie; from the ratepayers of the town of Bowmanville; from the ratepayers of the village of Clinton; from the ratepayers of the township of West Wawanosh; from the ratepayers of the city of Kingston; from the ratepayers of the township of Stamford; from the ratepayers of the town of Drummondville; from the

ratepayers of the village of Weston; from the Council of the village of Hespeler; from the Council of the village of New Hamburg; from the ratepayers of the town of Chatham; from the Council of the township of Stafford; from the Council of the village of Blenheim; from the Council of the township of Harwich; from the Council of the town of Guelph; from the Council of the township of Guelph; from the Council of the town of Paris; from the Council of the town of Walkerton; from the Council of the township of Bruce; from the Council of the village of Paisley; from the Council of the township of Arran; from the Council of the town of Stratford; from the ratepayers of the town of Peterboro'; from the ratepayers of the town of St. Mary's; from the Council of the town of Oakville; from the Council of the village of Georgetown; from the ratepayers of the township of Hamilton (Northumberland county); from the Council of the village of Oshawa; from the Council of the township of East Whitby; from the Council of the township of Whitby; from the ratepayers of the town of Collingwood; from the ratepayers of the village of Alton; from the ratepayers of the town of Yorkville; from the ratepayers of the town of Petrolia; from the ratepayers of the town of Meaford; from the Council of the village of Newboro'; from the ratepayers of the village of Aurora; from the ratepayers of the city of Belleville; from the Council of the town of Collingwood; from the Council of the village of Alliston; from the Council of the united counties of Lennox and Addington; from the Council of the village of Bath; from the Council of the village of Aurora; from the Council of the township of North Gwillimbury; from the ratepayers of the village of Rondeau; from the ratepayers of the village of Ayr; from the ratepayers of the village of Hespeler; from the ratepayers of the village of Brighton.

## MESSAGE FROM HIS HONOUR.

Mr. MOWAT presented to the House a message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. SPEAKER read the message, in which His Honour thanked the House for the Address which they had presented to him in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

## PRAYERS IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adoption of the report of the Committee on the subject of prayers for the House.

Mr. LAUDER asked for information as to how it was proposed to carry out the recommendations of the Committee.

Mr. MOWAT said that it was the opinion of the Committee that the matter should be left in the hands of the Speaker, who would endeavour to act in such a manner as would be agreeable to both sides of the House. The Committee considered that Mr. Speaker would more properly carry out their recommendation as to the inviting of clergymen than a Committee appointed for the purpose.

Mr. LAUDER could not see how the Speaker was going to carry out the wishes of the House unless he knew what the wishes of the House were. He (Mr. Lauder) did not think all denominations would be treated alike, but that the offering of prayers would be confined to ministers of one or two denominations. He thought that representative ministers of all the leading denominations should be invited to fulfil this duty; all denominations should be treated alike.

Mr. MOWAT—I think everybody agrees to that.

Mr. HODGINS thought the Speaker should read the prayers, as was done in the House of Commons at Ottawa. In the schools, prayers were read by the teachers without the assistance of clergymen—(hear, hear)—and in the universities the professors read prayers. The case was similar in the High Schools. As this was a matter concerning the domestic economy of the House, it would be better, he thought, that they should follow the practice adopted by the House of Commons at Ottawa and in other public institutions in the country, and that the prayers should be read by the Speaker.