

He thought the clause of the report respecting that point should be altered.

Mr. SCOTT was very much in accord with the remarks just made. It would be impossible to carry out the system proposed by the Committee without giving dissatisfaction to some portion of the community. There would be complaints, whether well founded or not, even as to the clergyman who would read the prayers for the first time. He therefore thought the report should be amended so as to provide for the prayers being offered in the same way as at Ottawa.

Mr. SINCLAIR imagined that all the ministers in Toronto would not be willing to read prayers, many of them preferring to offer them extempore. The result would be that the duty would be confined to ministers of one or two denominations. He thought, moreover, that it would be improper to impose the duty on the Speaker, unless some religious test were imposed. He added that he did not intend this remark to refer to the present occupant of the Speaker's chair, but he spoke generally.

The report of the Committee was then adopted.

PETITIONS FOR PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. MOWAT said that, as some petitions for private Bills had been presented in an irregular way, and were sent back by the clerk, it was desirable that the time for receiving them should be extended. He moved that the time for receiving petitions for private Bills be extended till Tuesday next.

The motion was carried.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adoption of the report of the Select Committee appointed to strike Standing Committees. Carried.

EXEMPTIONS FROM TAXATION.

Mr. BELL asked whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce, during the present session, a Bill for the purpose of abolishing exemptions from municipal taxation; and if so, to what extent.

Mr. MOWAT—It is the intention of the Government at a very early day to ask the House for a Committee (hear, hear, and Opposition cheers) on this subject; and when I move for that Committee I will state the reasons which the Government have for taking that course.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL ACT.

Mr. McMAHON asked whether it was the intention of the Government to amend the Municipal Act, so as to permit grocers and others licensed to sell spirituous liquors to be elected members of municipal corporations.

Mr. MOWAT said the law on that particular point had been in existence for a long time. The Municipal Act had been repeatedly revised, and the law on this point left where it was. The Government were not aware of any special reason for amending the Municipal Act in this particular at present; and it was not desirable that the Act should be unnecessarily amended in regard to particulars in which legislation was not demanded.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. McMahon's notice of motion put upon the paper on Tuesday is for an enquiry as to whether the Government intends to amend the Municipal Act so as to permit licensed liquor dealers to become municipal representatives; not to prevent them, as stated through a printer's error.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Third Parliament—Third Session.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
TORONTO, January 21.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.
Prayers having been read by Rev. Mr. Sanson.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Macdougall (Simcoe)—Of John Fitzgerald and two hundred others, praying that Andrew Mercer, Jr., may inherit the residue of the Mercer estate.

By Mr. Ballantyne—Of the Stratford and Huron Railway Company.

By Mr. Hardy—Of Hon. David Christie and others, praying for an Act to incorporate the Brant Memorial Association.

Petitions were received from the following places praying for the abolition of tax exemptions:—Town of Waterloo, town of Ingersoll, village of Norwich, township of Adjala, town of Orillia, village of Midland, town of Fergus, village of Yorkville, county of Waterloo, town of Port Hope, city of Toronto.

THE PHARMACY ACT.

Mr. Clarke (Norfolk) introduced a Bill to amend the Pharmacy Act of 1871.

The Bill was read the first time.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL ACT.

Mr. BELL asked whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill during the present session for the purpose of amending the present Municipal Laws, with a view of reducing the number of polling subdivisions, as well as to make the election of school trustees take place at the same time, in the same manner, and by the same returning officers, as the election of municipal councils?

Mr. MOWAT—It is not the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill during the present session for the purposes mentioned in the question.

THE BUDGET AND THE ESTIMATES.

Mr. MOWAT said that there were none of the Government Orders on the paper that would be gone on with to-day, but it might be interesting to the House to know that his hon. friend the Treasurer expected to make his statement on Wednesday, or at the latest on Thursday. The Estimates would be down to-morrow. (Cheers.)

Mr. MOWAT moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at 3:25 p.m.